

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes  
March 30, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtger, Ralph Johnson, Cathy Archibald, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions – Town Hall work, Mile Long Field (MLF) appraisal, Sports Trails of the Ascutney Basin (STAB), MLF Memorandum of Understanding re: subdivision
- 3) Sign Town Clerk's orders – **Tom made a motion to sign the Town Clerk's orders. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Law Enforcement – Glenn said the Selectboard is considering the law enforcement options for the town. Glenn said he has sent letters to Reading, Hartland, Windsor and Weathersfield to see if they might be interested in forming a regional police force. Glenn said he has heard from Windsor and Reading that they are interested in discussing the idea. Weathersfield will be discussing it at their next Selectboard meeting and Glenn has not heard from Hartland. The Selectboard discussed the three options: to find a local replacement for Constable Ralph Johnson when he retires in 2012; to hire the sheriff's department with the Vermont State Police as backup; or to form a regional police force with one or more neighboring towns. Ralph said the town would have to sign a contract with the sheriff's department if they want their help. Glenn said, ideally, the town could hire a local retired or semi-retired person who is certified or willing to get certified, but it's hard to find someone like that. Tom said he thinks it would take at least 2 years to form a regional police force. Tom said he thinks the town should keep all options open for now. Tom said he thinks Hartford Dispatch is almost maxed out and he doesn't know if they would be able to dispatch for a regional police force. Glenn said he is hoping to find out within the next month if the other towns are interested. Ralph said if the town pays for a local person to go to the Police Academy, they should sign a contract with them for a certain number of years of service. Glenn said he thinks the town should advertise to see if anyone is interested. Tom said he would like to wait a couple of months. Ralph said the town is going to have to provide a cruiser, maintenance, and somewhere to store it. Glenn agreed that it's going to be more expensive. Glenn said Mike Chamberlain indicated that the Sheriff's department would be willing to provide a visual presence and traffic coverage, but would not respond to breaking and entering or domestic dispute calls, for example. Glenn said the State Police indicated that they would be willing to provide coverage similar to the coverage they provide to Hartland. The State Police can't specify who is going to provide the coverage or when they're going to be there, but they can commit to a certain number of hours per week and, other than that, they would be available "on call." There was discussion about the response time of the state police if they don't happen to be in the area at the time of the call. Bruce said he would prefer a regional force in the long term and urged Glenn to keep pursuing that option. Bruce said FAST Squad calls sometimes involve domestic disputes and Ralph is usually the first one there so he can advise the EMTs whether it's safe to enter. Bruce said we're not going to have that after Ralph retires. Glenn said he will follow up with Hartland and Weathersfield if he hasn't heard from them by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Bruce suggested checking with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to see if they have a template for an agreement among towns to create a regional police force. Martha said she can inquire on Muninet.
- 5) Consider signing Letter of Intent re: Mile Long Field – Glenn reviewed the changes to the Letter of Intent (LOI) and noted that Matt Birmingham has reviewed it as well. Glenn said the LOI is null and void if it's not signed by April 1, 2011. **Tom made a motion to approve signing the Letter of Intent, subject to a final review by each individual Selectboard member prior to signing. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Tom said the minutes should reflect that the agreement will expire on July 28<sup>th</sup> if it is signed tomorrow, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

- 6) Other Business – MLF Appraisal: Glenn said he heard from Peg Merrens of the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) that Appraiser John Waldo will modify the appraisal to reflect the change in acreage, and the impact of the snowmaking pond and easements, as required by UVLT and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). The cost for modifying the appraisal is approximately \$1,100. Glenn said if the Selectboard decides to proceed with the modification, he would like to pay for it out of the Conservation Fund. Bruce said we have to have the appraisal modified if we're going to proceed with this project. Glenn said this appraisal is not for valuing an easement; it's to comply with the requirements of the grant application to VHCB. Tom said getting a grant is a key part of this package. **Tom made a motion to approve the appraisal modification work by John Waldo, to be paid for from the Conservation Fund. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** MLF Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) re: subdivision: Glenn said there is an informal review scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the potential subdivision of MLF with the DRB. Participating in such a review requires that the applicant and the DRB sign a memorandum of understanding that states that it is informal and no action will be taken. Glenn said he would be the applicant, representing West Windsor to the DRB, if Bruce and Tom are okay with that. Bruce asked if the landowner has authorized Glenn to represent them. Glenn said the MOU references the applicant not the property owner but the property owner is aware of the subdivision process. **Bruce made a motion to authorize Glenn to sign the MOU on behalf of West Windsor. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Sports Trails of the Ascutney Basin (STAB) – Glenn said he has talked to Erik Schutz and Jim Lyall about the possibility of looking at the Town of Burke and the Kingdom Trails as a model for an economic driver for West Windsor and he anticipates discussing it further with them tomorrow. Glenn said the concept was well-received by Erik and Jim. Glenn added that there has been a lot of discussion around town about the challenges faced by the General Store since the downturn in the economy and the closure of the ski area. Glenn said the store came up in his weekly conference call with Orange Lakes and when he mentioned the idea of mountain biking as an alternative economic driver for the town, they were very positive about it. Glenn said if it looks like a viable option, the idea can be discussed at a regular Selectboard meeting. Tom said he would like to explore the idea of expanding the trails in the vicinity of the Bowers Covered Bridge. Glenn said it's worth further discussion. Bruce asked Glenn if he has contacted anyone in Burke. Glenn said he has talked to the Burke Planning Commission Chair and plans to talk to the Selectboard and the Zoning Administrator. The Selectboard discussed the potential benefits to West Windsor of promoting mountain biking. Bruce said he'd love to have someone from Burke come and talk about the pros and cons. Bruce said we'd need some trail agreements and some marketing help but he thinks the trails would hold up to a lot of use. Tom mentioned the possibility of having trails that extend onto state park land. Glenn said Jim Lyall has had contact with the state and he thinks there are plans for trails on state land. The Selectboard agreed that mountain biking as an economic driver has significant potential and should be investigated further. Tom said he thinks it's important to let potential buyers of the Resort know that the town is looking into this and doing what they can to make it viable. The Selectboard agreed to investigate whether a confidential meeting with a potential buyer would be in keeping with the open meeting law. The Selectboard talked about tax stabilization as one thing that the town might be able to offer a potential buyer.
- 7) Adjourn - **Bruce made a motion to adjourn at 4:30 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison