

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

### Draft Minutes

November 24, 2010

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.
- 2) Executive Session: Personnel Matters – **Glenn made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion, **Tom made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 3) Other Business – Ambulance Contract: **Tom made a motion to approve the contract proposal from Golden Cross for the ensuing year for \$9,603. Bruce suggested proposing to Golden Cross that they consider a 5-year contract in the future. Tom accepted Bruce’s amendment to the motion, which passed, as amended, unanimously.** Hay sedge: Tom said there is hay sedge, a rare plant, in the Little Ascutney Wildlife Management Area and he suspects that it is present in the town forest as well. Glenn said he has contacted a forest ecologist to gauge her interest in the town forest project. Bruce said Bruno Associates uses a forestry consulting firm in Middlebury. Bruce agreed to give Glenn the contact information. Bruce said there are state employees who have the expertise to do this sort of work but he doesn’t know whether, as a town, we would be entitled to those services. Tom said an inventory of plants should probably take place over spring, summer and fall because some plants only appear for a couple of weeks. Bruce said his understanding is that late spring is the best time to do a plant inventory. Glenn said the amount of the town forest project budget prepared by the regional planning commission (\$8,000) is comparable to the amount proposed some time ago for the preparation of a multi-use plan. Glenn said the regional planning commission’s proposal includes facilitating public meetings and mapping. Glenn said he would like to make sure that the Selectboard is aware of what this project is going to cost and that they are in favor of it. Glenn said the town is applying for a grant but there is no guarantee that we’ll get it. Bruce said he doesn’t see how anyone can make any decisions about the town forest without the information that this project will provide. Tom said there may be rare plants up there that we should be aware of. Tom said he’s very comfortable with the regional planning commission doing this work. Bruce asked if the Selectboard should talk to the Town Forest Committee, or just do it. Glenn said the Selectboard should just do it; the Town Forest Committee is on board they just don’t know what it’s going to cost. Bruce asked Glenn to find out the regional planning commission’s timing on this. Martha said municipal planning grants usually run for a year and a half. Bruce asked when they could start to inventory and map natural resources. Bruce said wildlife areas can be mapped in the winter. Glenn said some of the information is already on hand. Bruce asked if this involves any field work or if it is just putting together resources that are already available. Glenn said his sense is that it would not involve any field work by the regional planning commission, but we would also be working with the Department of Fish & Wildlife, the County Forester, and hopefully a forest ecologist. **Bruce made a motion to proceed with the town forest study as outlined in the November 17, 2010 email from Jason Rasmussen. Tom seconded the motion.** Tom said he thinks we need to have an inventory of what’s up there. Glenn said he thinks that’s where the forest ecologist comes in. Bruce said the email says “inventory and map” – does that mean that someone is going to go up there with a gps? Glenn said he will get clarification on that. Martha asked Glenn if he mentioned the possibility of adding \$5,000 to the grant proposal for the forest ecologist. Glenn said the proposal from regional planning is not the “end all” of the project. Bruce said he will give Glenn the names of a couple of foresters. Bruce said he doesn’t think the plant inventory will happen until spring anyway. Bruce said there aren’t many areas of the state that haven’t been touched in a century. Bruce said he knows there are some vernal pools in the town forest. Tom asked if the grant application has already been submitted. Martha said it’s close to being done, but it’s not due until November 30<sup>th</sup>. Martha said she has to get the Planning Commission to endorse it, and Hal Pyke to sign it, before it can be submitted. Martha said with the

\$8,000 estimate from regional planning and \$5,000 for a forester, it would be about \$13,000 altogether. Glenn said he thinks \$1,000 to \$2,000 would be enough for a walk through by a forester to update the timber inventory. Glenn said he's hoping that the Fish and Wildlife Department will also help. **Glenn called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.** Martha asked the Selectboard if they could also pass the resolution authorizing the municipal planning grant. **Tom made a motion to pass the Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant for the Town of West Windsor dated November 24, 2010. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Library: Tom said the Library Trustees agreed on \$12,500 for maintenance for the coming year, but they increased their request for roof replacement funds to \$38,500. Glenn asked if there was any discussion about insulating the roof. Tom said he thinks it would make sense to put in a false floor upstairs and insulate that, but the trustees need to review the energy audit first. Tom said the trustees have received two proposals for the work and accepted one of them, subject to voter approval at Town Meeting. Tom presented Glenn with the related articles for the Town Meeting Warning.

Town Clerk's Orders: The Town Clerk had orders for the Selectboard to sign, which they did.

Town Hall windows: Tom said the cost to wash the Town Hall windows is \$1,295. The Selectboard agreed to have the windows washed.

Fire District: Glenn said the Property Owners Association (POA) is getting nervous about getting the required number of signatures and would like to expand the fire district to Coaching Lane. Glenn said he is not inclined to do that because the possibility that there will ever be public water and sewer out there is remote. Glenn said if the fire district is going to be expanded, it ought to be expanded along Route 44 to the Windsor/West Windsor town line. Tom asked about expanding it to include Seems Road. Glenn said he is hesitant to get too much of the town involved prior to the wastewater study. Bruce and Tom agreed.

- 4) Adjourn – **Tom made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 AM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison