

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes  
September 8, 2010

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Kenny Burke, Dennis Conley, Mark Nowlan

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.
- 2) Meet with Town Forest Committee – Glenn asked the Town Forest committee if they still plan to form a “Friends Of” group. Glenn said the Selectboard suggests that the friends group be limited to between five and seven people. Bruce said it would be nice to have each member of the group represent a different interest, e.g. firewood, recreation, etc. Mark said he would like it to be clear that the friends group is an advisory group. Glenn agreed that he envisions it that way. Glenn said there hasn’t been much going on up there so some people don’t know that there is a Town Forest Committee. Glenn said there’s going to be a lot of work to do which may raise the committee’s profile. Bruce said it’s going to be necessary for the committee to warn meetings and take minutes. Glenn said we’re going to be spending money on a survey and a management plan so we need to have some protocol. Dennis said he’s concerned about the prohibited activities in the Selectboard’s interim policy. Glenn said since there don’t seem to be any policies in place, we ought to put the brakes on until we come up with a plan. Dennis said it’s good that the gate is usually locked. Bruce said having restrictive interim policies is an incentive to get the plan in place. Glenn said he thinks there’s enough room up there for everybody to do what they want to do. Glenn suggested two public forums to get input. Meanwhile, Glenn said, he thinks we ought to get the town forest surveyed. Kenny said there are two areas where the location of the boundary is not clear. Kenny said if we “gps” the line and get volunteers to mark it, it shouldn’t be that expensive. Mark said the forester needs a survey before he develops a management plan. Bruce suggested setting some benchmarks and timelines. Bruce said one thing that needs to be determined is which areas are appropriate for ATVs, which are appropriate for mountain bikes, which are appropriate for cutting wood, etc. Mark said there might be some marketable timber in there that could help pay for these things. Kenny said the top half of the mountain is steep wilderness. Glenn said unless there’s timber up there that needs to be harvested, he would prefer to leave it alone. There was discussion about finding a forester who can manage for wildlife as well as wood. Bruce suggested making sure that the town’s plan is in sync with the state’s plan for the adjacent land. Bruce said there are a lot more people using the town forest now. Dennis said there was a lot of traffic up there last weekend for “family day.” In the interest of protecting the town forest from overuse, there was discussion about how much signage and publicity there should be. Mark said the access road to the parking lot needs some work, particularly water bars near the top. Glenn asked if it would be reasonable to have a plan put together by next spring. The forest committee members agreed that it would be reasonable. Bruce suggested a March deadline in case we need to put something on the ballot. Everyone agreed. All agreed that there are limited areas that are accessible with a four-wheeler. Bruce said it would be easy to map those out. Glenn said the Selectboard would like the “friends of the forest” committee to get organized. Mark said Cathy Boedtke and Laura Stillson are interested in the friends committee. Dennis said the Forest Committee has a meeting on Monday. Glenn said it would be nice if the Forest Committee and the Selectboard could meet on different nights so they can attend each other’s meetings. Kenny said that’s not a problem. Kenny said if the Selectboard wants to appoint a couple more people to the Town Forest committee, he’s open to that. Glenn said he will call Kenny before the Selectboard appoints anyone. Dennis Conley said that Dennis Lemire might be interested. Mark said Jim Lyall might be interested also. Bruce said if we expand the Forest Committee, do we need a “friends of the forest” committee? All agreed to just expand the Forest Committee and not appoint a separate “friends of” committee. Glenn suggested nominating four more people to the Town Forest committee. Bruce suggested announcing the expansion of the Forest committee at the Selectboard’s next meeting.

Bruce asked who takes the minutes for the Forest Committee. Mark said John Cocke did that, so we'll have to recruit one of the new members to take over. Mark said the Forest Committee will be meeting more frequently. Glenn asked Kenny how we should proceed on the survey. Kenny suggested requesting bids and using gps to mark the corners and a few spots in between. Bruce asked if we are going to end up with a recorded survey or just an established line. Kenny said the line between the forest and the ski area is established and the boundary with the state property is marked and mapped. Kenny said the line is not clear on the Weathersfield side but it goes somewhere near Cascade Falls. Tom said there's supposed to be a granite post there. Kenny said there's a stone wall coming off Mile Long Field and that's the property line and there's another point somewhere on the middle of the ridge and there used to be an iron pin at the corner with the state land on the town line. Since then, they sold off that little piece and that was never marked. Bruce wondered about the scope of the project and how that might affect the cost. Kenny and Glenn agreed that we need an official map but Kenny said he doesn't want to do the work himself. Tom asked if there is anything marking the Windsor/West Windsor/Weathersfield line. Kenny said he doesn't know. Kenny said between Kimball Farm and Cascade Falls there are some old fence remains. Glenn said he thinks we need one official survey document. Bruce said he agrees, it doesn't make sense to cut corners. Bruce asked Kenny if he would be willing to draft a request for proposals (RFP). Kenny said yes. Tom asked if there is a deed for the Town forest. Bruce said there are descriptions of everything else around it. Kenny used an existing map to show the Selectboard which boundaries are not clearly marked. Kenny said some of the properties on the Weathersfield side of the line are surveyed and some of the deeds mention a fence or a wall. Bruce said he'd like to have an RFP by Monday for the Selectboard to vote on. Alternatively, Bruce said, the Selectboard should at least make a motion during Monday's meeting to have a survey done. Glenn agreed. Kenny said he could prepare an RFP by the Selectboard's October meeting. There was discussion about what should be included in the RFP. Glenn suggested that Kenny and Bruce provide some recommendations about where to send the RFP. Kenny said the boundaries should be blazed or flagged close enough to see two or three flags at a time. Bruce said ideally the Selectboard should award the survey contract at their October meeting so the contractor has October and November to work on it. Bruce suggested allowing firms a week to ten days to respond to the RFP. Kenny guessed that the bids are going to fall between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Kenny said it would help if the resort would provide access via the chairlift. Bruce suggested using ATVs to get up there. Kenny said we'll still have to go on ski area land so we'll have to run it by them one way or the other. Bruce said he's not sure the lifts will be running. Glenn said the Selectboard will make the resort aware that we need access. **Bruce made a motion to expand the Town Forest Committee with an additional four members. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** The Selectboard agreed to award the surveying contract at their October meeting. Glenn said he envisions the expanded forest committee having two public forums while the town is working on getting the forest surveyed. Once the survey is done, Glenn said, we can start looking for a forester who can develop a plan prior to Town Meeting. Bruce said he'd like to send the RFP out 10 days prior to the October meeting. Kenny said he could have an RFP prepared by October 1<sup>st</sup>. **Bruce made a motion to reschedule the October meeting when we receive the RFP from Kenny by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 3) Adjourn – **Tom moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison