

WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes

June 17, 2009

Present: Barbara Truex, Glenn Seward, Hal Pyke, Joe D'Anna, Mark Isenberg, Martha Harrison, Jeff & Genevieve Lemire, Oakley Lemire, Mike Gannon, Bailee Gannon, Sam Harrison

1. Call to Order - Chair Hal Pyke called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. Albert Bridge School Eco-Club presentation – Sam and Bailee showed the Planning Commission (PC) their model of Brownsville as it is now and pointed out some existing features that are not environmentally friendly. Oakley showed the PC a model of a future Brownsville with solar panels, windmills and other eco-friendly features. The PC had some questions and comments for the students about their projects.
3. Changes or Additions – Energy Coordinator: Hal said the Selectboard approved the creation of an interim Energy Coordinator position. Hal said Tom Kenyon suggested that someone currently on the PC serve as interim Energy Coordinator. There was discussion about whether a current PC member would become a non-voting ex-officio member if he or she volunteered to serve as Energy Coordinator. There was also discussion about possible candidates for the position who are not current voting members of the PC. The PC agreed to publicize the position and see if anyone is interested.
4. West Windsor Town Plan – Chapter 3 (Utilities & Facilities): The PC talked about whether or not the Town Plan should recommend a sewer system for the village of Brownsville. Glenn pointed out that on-site septic system technology has advanced so much in the past few years that it would make more sense for homeowners with failed systems to replace them with new systems. Glenn added that a sewer system would be a huge investment and he doesn't see a return on the investment. Hal said, without density, a sewer line is not affordable. Barbara said when you live in a small town, you shouldn't expect all the services that would be available in a city, including public water and sewer. In discussing available phone services, the PC agreed to remove any references to specific companies. Hal said it is unrealistic to expect all new utility lines to be buried. Barbara suggested requiring that they either be buried or co-located on existing poles. The PC agreed to include a separate paragraph on internet service. There was discussion about the need for high-speed internet to support home-based businesses. The PC agreed that cable is much faster than satellite for internet service. The PC agreed that the Town Plan should mention the various types of service available, the lack of availability in certain sections of town, and the possible future availability of fiber optic service via ECFiber. Regarding water and sewer, Hal said the Windsor-Ascutney Sewage Treatment Enterprise (WASTE) board has not met for at least two years. Glenn said he doesn't think anything in the paragraphs about the Resort's sewer and water systems has changed. Glenn asked about the status of the school's water system. The PC agreed to get an update from the school. There was brief discussion about water quality testing on Mill Brook. Hal said he would get an update on that from Tom Kennedy. Barbara said the school must have to test their water on a regular basis. Martha said without a sewer line, density isn't affordable. Hal said we need to find a place or two for affordable housing, which may give rise to the need for sewer expansion. Barbara asked who pays for sewer line expansion, the developer or the town. Hal said the developer normally pays, but it may be possible to form a sewer district and get grants to help absorb the cost over time.

Glenn said there are a couple of existing lots in close proximity to the sewer line which could be developed as affordable housing without extending the line. Hal said a small private water system could be set up for an affordable housing development. The PC discussed the policies and recommendations and modified or eliminated many of them, either because they have been accomplished or are no longer considered priorities. There was discussion about Windsor's capacity to handle any sewage that West Windsor might produce if the sewer line were expanded into the village. Hal said Windsor has plenty of capacity. The PC agreed that extending the sewer line into town is not a priority at this time and should not be considered unless a justifiable need arises. The PC agreed to include the "Phone" and "Internet" sections under the Telecommunications heading. Glenn noted that the tower on Blood Hill has been taken down. Martha asked if the whole thing has been dismantled. Glenn said he would go up and check. Glenn suggested mentioning the new wireless telecommunications system on top of the old base lodge. Hal agreed. Martha said that, since the 2005 Town Plan was approved, the Town has adopted wireless telecommunications bylaws and does require permits for such facilities. However, Martha said, the owners of the facilities are supposed to report annually on their continued safe operation and the Town has not received any of the required reports. The PC agreed that the Town Plan should specifically mention the reporting requirements. The PC agreed to eliminate or consolidate several of the telecommunications policies and recommendations either because they have been accomplished or because they are redundant. Chapter 4 (Municipal Services & Government): Glenn asked if West Windsor is still under contract with Windsor for ambulance service. Martha said yes, but dispatching is done through Hartford. The PC agreed that increased development and/or changes in state regulations are going to make it necessary for the town to review its approach to law enforcement in the near future. The PC added a related action item under the recommendations section. The PC discussed the status of private security at the Resort. Martha said she would ask Jim Kenyon and Nancy Gaynor to review the Emergency Planning and Emergency Medical Service sections. Martha said she thinks there may be new state training requirements that could make it more difficult to recruit and retain FAST Squad volunteers, but she will check with Nancy. Martha said Emergency Medical Service is another area where West Windsor may require assistance from surrounding towns. Hal said he knows that Windsor's Town Manager, Steve Cottrell, would love to set up an alliance with West Windsor in a number of areas. There was brief discussion about whether Enhanced 911 service can determine the location of cell phone calls. Glenn said he thinks it depends on the phone; with some phones that feature can be turned off.

5. Approve Minutes: June 2, 2009 – **Barbara made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2009, as written. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
6. Other Business – None
7. Adjourn – **Glenn made a motion to adjourn, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison