

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
February 8, 2016

Present: Dick Beatty, Ted Siegler, Tom Kenyon, Connie Dowse, Martha Harrison, Mike Spackman, George Calver (*Vermont Standard*), Aaron Gonthier (Windsor on Air)

1. Call to Order – Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. Changes or additions to the agenda – Recreational Trails Program (RTP) letter of support
3. Announcements/Public Comment – Connie Dowse expressed concern about the 35 MPH speed limit on Cemetery Road, where there are many people walking and riding bikes or horses at all times of the year. Connie said the connecting road (Sheddsville Road) has a 30 MPH speed limit and she thinks the speed limit on Cemetery Road should be the same. Connie also noted that Banister Road has no speed limit. Tom said, according to state law, the speed limit on un-posted roads is 50 MPH. Martha said West Windsor passed an ordinance specifying that the speed limit on un-posted roads is 35 MPH. Connie noted that Hammond Hill Road has a 25 MPH speed limit. Connie asked about the procedure for having the speed limit changed. Tom said the town would have to have a traffic study done. The Selectboard agreed to contact the Windsor Police Department about doing a traffic study to ensure that any changes made are enforceable. Connie had a list of local residents who share her concerns.
4. Sign Town Clerk's orders – **Tom moved to sign orders at the end of the meeting. Ted seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
5. Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report – None
6. Highway Foreman's report – Mower: Mike said there are no Diamond Mower dealers in Vermont so he has been speaking with someone in the Albany, NY area about putting a different head on the mower and upgrading the hydraulic system, which will be considerably cheaper than replacing the whole thing. Mike said a flail head will be better at keeping rocks and debris on the ground. Coaching Lane/Route 44 intersection: Mike said Chris Bump has a survey and plans that he's going to send us and, according to Alan May (Better Backroads), the project may be eligible for grant funding. Mike would like to put material excavated from the Coaching Lane project on Bowers Road to make it useable as a trail again. Sand & gravel bids: Mike said we'll have to get sand and gravel bids before the first meeting in April. Culverts: Mike said we've lost our culvert dealer so we need to find a new one. Meeting: Mike said West Windsor is hosting the next Road Foremen's meeting, which has to do with implementing the Clean Water Act, at the Town Garage on Wednesday, February 24, from 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. Plow: Mike said the new plow is in but he has not used it yet and has not gotten any calls about the old one. Epstein culvert: Tom asked about plans to replace the culvert on Bible Hill Road, near the Epstein property. Mike said the town will re-apply for a grant to do that project this year.
7. Sign Certificate of Highway Mileage – The Selectboard approved and signed the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Tom asked if we're adding Hotel Road and Coaching Lane Extension this year. Martha said we added Coaching Lane Extension last year so we're just adding Hotel Road this year. Ted asked about the classification of Hotel Road. Mike said it doesn't meet the criteria for Class 2 so we're classifying it as Class 3. Hotel Road repair: Mike said he got prices on the work needed and it would amount to about \$90,000.
8. Request re: speed limit on Cemetery Road – See "Public Comment" above.

9. Review Unsafe Buildings Ordinance – Ted was concerned about the cost of requiring review by a structural engineer and wondered if an engineer’s opinion is necessary. Dick said it may be necessary to have an engineer’s opinion as the basis for the determination that the building is unsafe. Dick said he would not be in favor of an ordinance that simply imposes a fine for violations. Ted agreed that we may need an engineer’s opinion in order to be on strong legal ground but he would like to know if that’s the case or not. Ted suggested that Martha have another conversation with the Town Attorney and do a little more research. Martha said it’s her understanding that the Springfield ordinance, on which our draft ordinance is based, has stood up in court. Tom suggested requiring the owner to have the structural integrity tested.
10. Base Lodge discussion – **Ted moved to go into executive session to discuss negotiations concerning the Base Lodge. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion, **Dick moved to come out of executive session with no action taken. Ted seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
11. Water system update – Ted noted receipt of a lengthy letter from the Drinking Water Division about the sanitary survey of the water system conducted last fall. Ted asked Martha to talk with our engineers, Aldrich + Elliott, about putting together a response to the survey. Martha noted that the leak detection service offered by the state is only available for systems with “as built” plans, which we don’t have.
12. Solar project update – Dick noted that the town has reached an agreement with the applicant and it’s his understanding that both parties have signed the agreement and it has been filed with the Public Service Board.
13. January Police Report – Dick noted nothing out of the ordinary in the January Police Report.
14. Discuss personnel policy – Ted said he would like Martha and Mike to revise the policy, incorporating policies on short-term disability, worker’s compensation, sexual harassment, drug use, etc., and present the Selectboard with a draft when they are happy with it. Tom and Dick agreed. The policy, once adopted, will supersede all previous policies.
15. Other Business – RTP letter: **Ted moved to sign the letter of support for the RTP grant application submitted by STAB to improve the trail network in the town forest. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Balcony railing: Tom thanked the correctional facility for their work on the Town Hall balcony railing, which is now finished.
16. Approve Minutes – **Ted moved to approve the minutes of the January 22 special meeting, the January 22 joint meeting with the Utility Committee, the January 25 regular meeting, and the January 29 special meeting. Tom seconded the motion with approval of the January 22 joint meeting minutes contingent on the concurrence of the Utility Committee. With that addition, the motion passed unanimously.**
17. Adjourn – **Tom moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Ted seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison