

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

July 6, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 7:06 AM at the Mary L. Blood Library.
- 2) Changes or Additions – Tree Warden situation; personnel matters; legal/contractual issue; trail signage
- 3) Review recreational trail agreements – Trail maintenance: Glenn said there has been discussion about the town hiring a part-time person to maintain the trails but he doesn't think that's a good idea right now given the current economic climate. Bruce said he thinks, in the long run, the town should have more control over the trails. Glenn agreed. There was discussion about the pros and cons of having volunteers maintain the trails. Bruce said the trails need maintenance and he would like the town to consider hiring someone next year. Bruce noted that there's no means by which the town can provide funds for STAB to maintain the trails. Tom suggested setting aside tax money for trail maintenance that volunteer organizations such as STAB could apply for. Bruce said ATVs are going into the town forest and tearing up the trails and we need signs with the interim policies at the entrances. Glenn said we're going to need to set aside some money for this, including signage as required by the town's insurance company. License Agreement with Snowdance: Tom had some suggestions for minor revisions to the agreement. Tom asked if the agreement would prevent an organization from using the trail for an event (e.g. to raise money for cancer research). Bruce said he thinks the trail could be used for that purpose as long as the event organizers are not charging people to use the trail. Glenn agreed. Agreement with Windsor Building owners: Bruce asked about the status of getting an agreement to use the Windsor building property for trail construction. Glenn said we need to wait and see because that property is involved in a tax sale. Glenn added that he did mention it to the property manager who is going to bring it to the board of directors. Glenn said he is also talking to Jim Lyall about an alternate route for the trail. Glenn mentioned the long-term possibility of accounting for density land on paper rather than on the ground. Orange Lake agreement: No changes were proposed. Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of West Windsor and Sports Trails of Ascutney Basin (STAB): Glenn said the STAB board proposed some minor revisions, including relaxing the limit on the number of people who can be involved in organized group activities. Bruce said that would be inconsistent with our interim town forest policy. Glenn suggested drafting a waiver letter for STAB's group rides. After discussion the Selectboard agreed to leave the language the way it is and just ask STAB to notify them before any group trail rides involving more than 20 people.
- 4) Discuss financing of recreational trail system – Glenn said \$7,000 or \$8,000 is needed for the kiosk, signs, etc. Glenn said the town had an \$87,000 surplus last year and allocated \$25,000 for the town forest. Glenn suggested taking \$7,000 + from the surplus, which still leaves enough to reduce the tax rate by a penny if the Selectboard chooses. Glenn said he is also reasonably sure that the tax sale will go through, which will increase tax revenue by \$30,000. Bruce asked if the \$7,000 includes labor. Glenn said it includes

labor and materials. Bruce said we need to get an itemized invoice from Jim Lyall. Tom said he would prefer to earmark \$4,000 for this now; and consider allocating an additional \$4,000 later. Glenn suggested asking Cathy Archibald to put \$4,000 into the Town Forest fund. Tom and Bruce agreed. Bruce said he doesn't have a problem with providing funds for the signs, kiosk and changing room, which can be moved to town property if necessary. There was additional discussion about the need to control ATV activity in the town forest.

- 5) Other Business – Tree Warden: Tom said Charlie Welles does not want the elm trees on his property removed. Tom said he's not sure they're on Charlie's property and they're in danger of falling on the power lines. Personnel matters: **Tom made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion, **Tom moved to come out of Executive Session and take no action. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Flags: Tom said the flag pole has been painted and the new flags are up, thanks to the fire department. Appraisal Services: Glenn had a letter from the Listers asking the Selectboard to sign the license for the Marshall and Swift costing tables. **Glenn made a motion to sign. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Tax rate: Glenn noted that the state property tax rate went down 5 or 6 cents. The Selectboard agreed to set the local tax rate on Monday. Bruce asked when the next reappraisal will be. Glenn said next year. Glenn noted that it was suggested that the Selectboard consider bidding on the six condominium units that are up for tax sale. Glenn said the town attorney questioned the wisdom of that suggestion.
- 6) Adjourn – **Glenn made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 AM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison