

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes
September 9, 2014

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtger, Courtney McKaig, Jason Rasmussen, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
- 2) Changes or Additions to the Agenda – None
- 3) Announcements/public comment – None
- 4) Discuss West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – Jason Rasmussen asked the Selectboard if they want to expedite the planning process so the plan can be used as the basis for a grant application this fall. Glenn suggested taking some additional time to work on the plan and submitting a grant application in the spring. All agreed. Tom said he wants to be sure that the plan is ADA compliant. The Selectboard agreed that the purpose and needs statement is appropriate. Jason described the area included in the plan as being from Brook Road to Harrington Road and up to the school. Glenn suggested including the resort area. Tom and Bruce agreed. Jason shared maps from the School Travel Plan showing where students live as well as walking/biking routes. Jason shared a chart showing existing pavement widths, speed limits, etc. Jason said he assumes that the school will be responsible for changes to circulation and parking on the school grounds. Jason showed three options for improving safety conditions for pedestrians, which included a sidewalk on the west side of Brownsville-Hartland Road, a sidewalk on the east side, and a walking path between the church and Beaver Brook. The Selectboard agreed that sight distance is not good when cars park between the Town Hall and the church and parking in that area should be eliminated for safety reasons. Tom said the drainage in that area needs to be improved as well. Those present agreed that a sidewalk on the east side is the best option. Regarding road shoulders on Brownsville-Hartland Road north of the school, Jason said there are some constraints. Jason said there is a stencil called a “share-o” which indicates that both cars and bikes are allowed on the road but that may not be the best option for kids biking to school. Martha said the town is putting in a new culvert which will widen the Brownsville-Hartland Road enough to allow for shoulders at one of the critical points. Jason said, according to state design standards, Brownsville-Hartland Road should have 9’ lanes and 2’ shoulders and, since the road is 22’ wide, there’s enough space for that but the road hasn’t been painted to define the shoulder. To allow for bikes, Jason said, you might want another foot or more on each side. Martha asked what the constraints are. Jason said there are some steep banks and some drop offs and there would be right-of-way issues. Courtney noted that the Sheddsville/Brownsville-Hartland Road intersection is a gathering point for walkers and bikers. Jason said a “share-o” might be appropriate for downhill routes, with expanded shoulders on uphill routes. Martha said there are also walkers who use that route. Jason agreed to look at the options. Glenn said he thinks there’s a way to include wider shoulders on Brownsville-Hartland Road. Bruce agreed. Those present discussed issues associated with the “resort to school” route, which could include a crossing guard, improving the sight distance, or a new sidewalk on the south side of the road connecting the store to the Brownsville-Hartland Road intersection. Jason said the sidewalk might involve right-of-way issues and the state has no plans to replace Bridge #6

so there's no opportunity to widen the road in that area. Jason said a pedestrian bridge off to the side might be an option. There was discussion about suitable locations for crossing Route 44. Jason noted that VTrans has already rejected the town's preferred location. Courtney asked if the School Zone Safety Initiative should be included in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Jason said yes. Tom noted the snowmobile crossing by the store. Glenn said if the state won't allow a crosswalk where people typically cross, or widen the bridge, they should provide grant money for a sidewalk and a pedestrian bridge. Jason said he'll do a cost estimate for a sidewalk. Martha asked if the sight distance would be adequate if the speed limit were lowered to 25 MPH. Jason said he can look into that. Courtney asked about a mechanism that triggers a flashing light to indicate that there's a pedestrian in the crosswalk. Jason said those mechanisms are typically located at an intersection. Jason presented the options for improving the route to the Post Office and Harrington Road, which include paving a wider shoulder and building a sidewalk on one or both sides of the road. Tom said the location of the Post Office may change. Jason said the sewer line may be expanded out to Harrington Road. Jason said there's room for a 3' to 5' paved shoulder on the north side of the road. Glenn asked if a crosswalk at the Post Office would be permissible. Jason said it might be a challenge but he'll look into it. Tom said the shoulder should go all the way to Harrington Road. Glenn agreed. Jason said the south side of the road only has a 1' shoulder. Jason said it may be possible to shift the center line to allow a 3' shoulder on both sides. Jason said VTrans is planning to pave Route 44 in Windsor only, not in West Windsor. Jason provided some cost estimates for the sidewalk between the Town Hall and the school, which vary depending on whether or not the project is grant funded. Jason asked if additional streetlights will be needed. Tom said no. Bruce agreed. Jason said Route 44 is narrow west of the village. East of the village, Jason said, there's a 10' travel lane and a 2' shoulder but the shoulder is broken up so it's not really usable by bikers. If it were re-paved, it would probably be fine although a 3' shoulder would be better. Jason said VTrans will probably try to meet the standards when they re-pave but it might help if the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan notes the deficiency and the need to make improvements. Those present agreed that Seems Road and Harrington Road do not need to be widened. Jason suggested meeting again in a month after he has a chance to talk with Mike Spackman and refine the plan. Courtney asked if there is a public education component to the plan. Jason said there could be. Glenn suggested honing in on a specific project for which we'd like to apply for grant funding, and then have a public hearing. Bruce agreed. Tom said he'd like to be sure that the school is on board with the plan. Martha asked if the town would pursue the maximum grant amount and implement as much of the plan as we can, or if we would just try to get the sidewalk built. Jason said when he has better cost estimates, the Selectboard can decide which portions of the plan to pursue. Tom said we should make sure we don't have any sewer connections under an area where we plan to have a sidewalk. Glenn said those locations will be identified in the near future. Jason said he will share the plan with the town's engineers to make sure there are no issues. There was discussion about the location of the school's connection to the sewer line. Jason asked if the School Board has looked at the School Travel Plan. Courtney said they've been introduced to it. Jason offered to contact the school. The Selectboard agreed that talking to the School Board would be a good idea.

- 5) Meet with Town Attorney concerning resort acquisition and related matters – The Town Attorney was not present.

- 6) Discuss and act on matters concerning resort acquisition – Glenn said he spoke with Aldrich & Elliott about the water system. An evaluation could be covered by a 0% loan for five years and low interest construction loans area available to deal with deficiencies or deferred maintenance for up to 30 years. Glenn said the evaluation would cost between \$7,000 and \$10,000. Glenn said he is meeting Dan Purjes today to walk the proposed easement trails. Glenn said he spoke with the Conservation Commission last night and they would like to look at the conservation easement language and the grant application. Glenn asked Bruce if he is going to update the Town Forest Committee about what's been happening. Bruce asked Glenn if he could do that. Glenn agreed. Glenn said he spoke with Kate Wanner and suggested updating the state about the situation since they have adjacent property and Kate agreed. Glenn said he'd like to set up a meeting with our state senators and representatives. Bruce and Tom agreed. **Tom moved to go into Executive Session. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion regarding a potential real estate purchase, **Glenn moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:25 AM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 7) Adjourn – **Bruce moved to adjourn at 9:26 AM. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison