

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
December 3, 2014 at 6 pm
MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: James Burke, Jacob White, Diane Chapman, Thomas Fitzgerald, Susan Haughwout

Others Present: Scott Murphy, Mary Towne, Chris Mays of Brattleboro Reformer, Jack Deming of Deerfield Valley News, Christine and Dennis Richter, Tom Consolino, Gretchen Havreluk, Cliff Duncan, Meg Streeter, Chris Huston, John Gannon, Lisa Sullivan

1. **Visitors, Public Comments, Possible Changes to Agenda:** None
2. **Minutes:** Haughwout moved and Fitzgerald seconded to approve minutes of November 18, 2014. Vote: All in favor. White moved and Fitzgerald seconded to approve minutes of November 19, 2014. Vote: Four in favor and Chapman abstained.
3. **Action Items:** Haughwout moved and Chapman seconded to approve the names of Charmonix Trail and Grenoble Way for two new roads within the Hermitage Club complex off of Gatehouse Trail. Vote: All in favor.
4. **Public Hearing: Bread Loaf Corporation - CDBG- Disaster Recovery Grant:** Burke called the hearing to order at 6:15 pm. Chris Huston of Bread Loaf Corporation presented the final results of the Co-Relocation of the Police and Fire Departments Planning Study funded through a CDBG- Disaster Recovery grant. This presentation is a follow up to an earlier discussion about finding a possible location for the two departments. This amended study focused on whether the Fire Department requirements could be feasible on the existing town-owned Beaver Street site.

Public Comments included:

- a. Egress via lower Beaver Street during a flood would be out but the upper Beaver Street egress could be used.
- b. Suggestion to re-route Beaver Street to give more space.
- c. Projected costs for this building vs. the recently built Town Garage. It is like comparing apples to oranges.
- d. The state needs to come up with more money to support fire departments.
- e. Significant recent Economic Development will increase grand list which will bring more revenue. It is not a windfall though – the more the Grand List grows, the more the State takes!
- f. Next Steps:
 - Decide if there is support for the project and if it is time to move forward.
 - Look into funding options – loans, grants, other. Murphy will prepare a list.
 - Public informational meeting to build support. Best to analyze funding first.

The hearing was closed at 7pm. The board thanked Huston for his presentation and the work done by Bread Loaf.

5. **Wilmington Works:** John Gannon and Lisa Sullivan, Co-Chairs of Wilmington Works came in to update the Selectboard on Wilmington Works activities and present their request for funding of \$25,000 through the Town's Local Option Tax Fund. They went over highlights of the year including projects such as Buy Local, Trash Cans, Gateway Signs, and events they created like the Fiddleheads Festival or are taking over like the Blueberry Block Party and downtown strolls. They work in collaboration with others such as the Beautification Committee, Chamber and the town economic development department. They are looking to do more fundraising and applying for a separate 501C-3 status. They recently completed a successful fundraising drive that generated over \$18,000. Some things they are working on now are enhanced lighting in downtown, ambassador

program, email survey, and extending the downtown district to include the old high school building. The board thanked them for coming in.

6. **Tom Consolino, Town Representative to Windham Regional Commission:** The board discussed ways to increase communication between the Selectboard, the town's representative, and the WRC. The board told Consolino the issue came up because of the negative stand WRC has been taking on the Hermitage projects. One letter in particular was incorrect and later withdrawn. WRC receives Act 250 notifications and is supposed to review them for compliance with the Regional Plan. Consolino said WRC tries to remain neutral on issues. There was discussion about Consolino letting the Selectboard know prior to when Wilmington issues will be discussed and especially when a comment letter is going to be sent. Also the Selectboard will let Consolino know if they have a position or concerns they want him to represent. The Chairs of the Selectboard and Planning Commission receive all the notices – mostly by email. In the future Burke will forward these notices on to the rest of the Selectboard. These are the notices that Mary has been using to create the Act 250 Log also. Consolino said that when the board receives the notice, they should call WRC to let them know they want to attend the project review. The protocol in the project review committee is to agree by consensus. It is a matter of matching the project with criteria.

Consolino said he is happy to come in and talk with the Selectboard on issues and welcomes comments. Burke thanked him and also said the WRC has been great with help on the Town Plan and Zoning and other projects.

7. **Correspondence to/from Selectboard:** The board reviewed the Act 250 log & other correspondence.

8. **Other Business:** None

9. **Select Board Members Comments and Other Action Items:**

- a. White: The Fire Department has been busy and still has a small number of responders. The Trail Committee has completed more bridges on the trails.
- b. Chapman: Congratulations to the Trail Committee for receiving a recognition award by the Chamber of Commerce.
- c. Fitzgerald heard very positive comments about the Town Plowing Crew during the recent storm. Much better than the state roads.

10. **Town Manager's Updates:**

- a. Haystack Road update: Murphy gave the board Attorney Fisher's opinion.
- b. Former High School Building status: The newly formed building committee is applying for 501C-3 status. The Supervisory Union has voted to move in and they are working with several more tenants including the hospital.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Towne, Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

James R. Burke, Chair

Diane Chapman, Vice Chair

Susan Joy Haughwout, Clerk

Jacob White

Thomas J. Fitzgerald