

Wilmington Selectboard/Sewer Commission
June 20, 2012 at 6:00 pm
At Twin Valley High School Library
MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Thomas Consolino, Margaret Streeter, Susan Haughwout, James Burke, and Diane Chapman

Others Present: Scott Murphy, Mary Towne, Mike Eldred, Cliff Duncan, Alice Greenspan, Susan Lawrence, Renee Galle, Mary Wright, John Shanahan, Bill Colvin, John Lazelle, and 2 others.

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm by Consolino.

1. **Minutes:** Streeter moved and Chapman seconded to approve minutes of May 30 and June 5, 6, 14, 2012. Vote: All in favor.
2. **Visitors and Public Comments:** None
3. **Liquor and Tobacco Licenses (if any):** None
4. **Downtown Designation Discussion:** John Shanahan, Executive Director of Better Bennington Corp. (BBC) talked about his experiences with the Downtown Program and answered questions regarding creating an organization, funding, sub-committees, Board of Directors, etc. Some issues discussed were:
 - Since Wilmington is smaller and just starting out, our program would be different. Perhaps start with a small volunteer group with no paid staff.
 - BBC is funded mostly through a tax assessment of the businesses in the Downtown District based on their property value. Other funding comes from memberships and sponsorships. Some other towns in Vermont are funded by a line item in the Town budget.
 - Competition/conflict between Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Designation: In Bennington they work together well – what is good for the town is good for the downtown and vice versa. The heart of the community is downtown.
 - Different committees and subcommittees.
 - How projects are decided upon: The design committee comes up with beautification projects and then whole board decides.
 - Two major benefits to Downtown Designation: Coordination of organized groups under one umbrella and grant opportunities.
 - Steps to move forward:
 - Selectboard vote to move forward with application.
 - Decide if accept proposal of Windham Regional Commission to prepare the application for \$15,000 or other ways to do the application. We can put together much that we already have. The harder part is preparing a 2-3 year plan to go forward.
 - Funding Options: Grants (we have matching funds budgeted), the 1% tax, request from groups like the Wilmington Fund.

Murphy will prepare a sheet of options for the next Selectboard meeting and they will decide whether to move forward.

5. **Summary Interview - Bill Colvin/ Economic Development Position:** Colvin gave the board a proposed revised Charge for the Bi-Town Economic Development Committee and explained the changes.

Chapman moved and Haughwout seconded to approve the proposed Bi-Town Economic Development Committee Charge 2012 to be reviewed by June 30, 2014. Vote: 4 in favor and Consolino opposed.

Colvin discussed the various aspects of the Town's economic development staff position. He is putting together a proposal for a Wilmington full-time economic development position similar to the previous bi-town planner position. The board will discuss at their next meeting whether they want a full-time or part-time position, etc. Streeter reminded everyone that Colvin is really leaving soon. There is some money budgeted that will be available when Colvin leaves.

The board thanked Colvin for all of his work for the Town and told him he will be greatly missed.

6. Long Term Community Recovery Steering Committee: Consolino gave the board a handout sheet that FEMA distributed about the Steering Committee (SC) and also a draft that he created of roles and responsibilities of the SC. The board discussed the number and composition of the SC and their responsibilities. Some questioned having Champions on the SC, but the consensus was that the most important thing is to have volunteers who really want to do the job and focus on the global picture, not just their pet projects. The Selectboard will talk to prospective volunteers to recruit them and make appointments at their next meeting.

7. Wilmington Water District Evaluation by A & E, Water Resources Engineers: Murphy and John Lazelle told the board that in order to move forward with the possible acquisition of the Water District, the town has to have certain information. Lazelle has worked with Wayne Elliott of A & E and would like to hire him to evaluate the water system in anticipation of merger/acquisition. Elliot has worked with other similar situations and will be able to obtain the information needed. Murphy also suggested a letter or memorandum of understanding to be signed by both the Selectboard and Water District Board agreeing to cooperate with the engineering study. The engineering study could possibly be funded by a planning grant. Streeter moved and Burke seconded to authorize the Town Manager to possibly hire A&E to evaluate the Wilmington Water District water system and draft a memorandum of understanding to be signed by the Wilmington Selectboard and Wilmington Water District Commissioners. Vote: All in favor. The Board thanked John and Scott for their work on this project.

8. Fourth of July Meeting date: The meeting will be changed for July 4th to July 3 at 6pm.

9. Town-Owned Haystack Lots: Murphy said he was approached by someone from one of the Haystack homeowner association groups about the possible sale/donation of Town-owned lots at Haystack Resort. In the past there was discussion about creating a plan for the best use of Town owned land, but that has not been done yet. The consensus of the Selectboard was to consider selling the lots. Murphy will get back to them with more information.

10. Finnegan and Cady/Dugan Property Update: Murphy told the board that the visit from the Governor sparked activity and the town has now received permits necessary to do the work.

11. Correspondence to/from Selectboard:

- Reviewed Act 250 log – no action taken
- Other correspondence:
 - **Advisory Board resignations:** Motion by Streeter and second by Burke to accept with regret the resignations of Budget Committee member Shirley Kasanoff and Memorial Hall Board members Gale Stachelek and Kathy Arnold. Vote: Four in favor and Haughwout abstained.

- **Tough Mudders@ Mount Snow, traffic issues in Wilmington:** Murphy told the board that he has had discussions with Mount Snow about the traffic issues raised in a recent letter and they have come up with some solutions to try at the next event.

12. Other Business: Selectboard Members Comments and Action Items

- a. Streeter told the board that there will be a CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) training on August 25th. More information to follow.

13. Town Manager's updates:

- a. Somerset is disputing the amount they will pay for fire services.
- b. The survey at the Transfer Station yielded mostly positive results. People are happy with the hours and the operation.
- c. Murphy gave the board a map of 9 South Main Street and the vacant lot next to it. Boundary lines and ownership of the vacant lot has been in question. The owner of 9 South Main Street is proposing to construct new steps on the south side of his building and wants to do a survey to determine the boundary line. Before spending money on a survey, he wants to know if the town would be willing to give up enough property to accommodate his stairs if needed, depending on the survey results. The consensus of the board was to have him go ahead with the survey and they will accommodate his stairs if possible.

Chapman moved and Streeter seconded to adjourn. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Towne, Administrative Assistant

Approved by Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas P. Consolino, Chair

Margaret L. Streeter, Vice Chair

Diane Chapman, Clerk

Susan Joy Haughwout

James R. Burke