

July 10, 2008

Present: First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton, and Nicholas N. Solley.

Public: Valerie Cooper, Mary Ewing, Steve Wadelton, Helga Hershey, Galen Quist, Laura and Bob Benn, Eric Federer, Jim Mitchell, Sandra Canning, Mitchell Borenstein, Mitchell Solomon, Roberta Connolly, Kitty and Rick Hunt... Kevin Smith, Highway Director.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 26, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Mark reported on the following:

- Boat Launch: The final inspection has been done. Several "minor" items need to be addressed. The ramp is operating well and several compliments have been received!
- Town Hall Tower and Dome: The Selectmen met with Valley Restoration and reviewed the work schedule for scaffolding, painting, gilding, etc. Work is scheduled to start on July 15th and should take 4-6 weeks to complete.
- Shepaug River/Waterbury Bureau of Water: The Town has been notified that a 12-month extension has been granted for completion of the Shepaug River Agreement.
- Farmer's Market: Thursdays at the Washington Senior Center from 10:30-12:00. Local products are sold and the public is welcome.
- Recycling Makes Sense Workshop: Thursday, July 24th at 8:30 a.m. at the Town Hall. The workshop will be geared to improving recycling in municipalities and businesses. The public is welcome. The program is made possible through a grant that was applied for by the Recycling Committee's Sarah Gager.

OLD BUSINESS: Opening of Bids for Fire Department Cab and Chassis:

The following bids were received:

1) Marola Motors, Torrington, CT \$105,500.00

2) Hine Brothers, Southbury, CT \$106,853.11

Bids will be reviewed by the Fire Chief and Fire Department and awarded in two weeks at the next Selectmen's Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion of bridgework to be done in Town: Kevin Smith, Highway Director, presented the Selectmen with plans for two bridges on Walker Brook Road that would be alternatives to box culvert bridges. It is called the "slip pipe system," would be considerably less expensive, there would be no need for road closures, etc. The company Kevin has contacted is from Maine and has done extensive work in New England. They would hire all necessary engineers to comply with DEP regulations, etc. The Selectmen asked Kevin to schedule a time when they could meet with the company's representative and inspect jobs they have done in the area.
- Chip Sealing: Kevin has contacted Gorman Brothers and we are scheduled to have several roads chip sealed in September. A list of these roads will be announced closer to the date(s) the work will

be done.

VISITORS:

Wykeham Road residents and neighbors regarding traffic: Several residents of Wykeham Road and the surrounding area attended the meeting to discuss concerns regarding traffic and speeding on Wykeham Road and on the adjoining roads. Valerie Cooper, Old Litchfield Road, opened the discussion by thanking the Selectmen for hearing their concerns. She spoke of traffic and speeding on Wykeham and surrounding roads and how it has been a concern for many years and many people have approached the Selectmen in the past – this is not a new issue. There have been three accidents in the past three years on Wykeham Road and more on Old Litchfield and Route 109. The issue of speeding on these winding roads has been addressed with the Selectmen and the Police Office and there is a general feeling that more needs to be done to slow drivers down. Some suggestions: pillars at corners of intersecting roads, speed humps, tables, No Thru Truck signs, more police presence, and ordinances established that deal with these issues. Valerie spoke of the pending Wykeham Rise proposal and the increase in traffic that (in her opinion and the opinion of many others) would bring. Eric Federer, Bell Hill Road, echoed Valerie's comments and added his feeling that a restaurant and bar open to the public on Wykeham Road, if approved, would set a precedent for "chinks" in the zoning regulations. Eric reminded those present that the Mayflower Inn had been denied access from Wykeham Road and if the zoning regs are not followed, the character of Washington could be forever changed. He spoke of the inevitability of the Town "changing" but feels that we have been able to maintain the feel of the Town and the rural character. Roberta Connolly, Wykeham Road, spoke of her concern for the future. Over the 14 years her family has lived here she has seen a huge increase in the traffic and is now dangerous to walk, ride bikes, etc. The Wykeham property has always been a school, which is very different from a spa/bar/restaurant. She feels the traffic generated from a school is nothing like what the proposed plan would bring. Roberta also asked the question whether Washington wants to be viewed as a "destination." Mary Ewing, Wykeham Road, spoke of the difficulty of pulling out of her driveway at Golf Course Road and intersection of Wykeham Road is extremely treacherous. Mary voiced her support for the comments already made. Suggested adding more STOP signs on Wykeham Road as a way to slow traffic. Jim Mitchell, Old Litchfield Road, reminded the Selectmen that he has attended several meetings to discuss the traffic and speeding on his road and the adjacent area roads. He mentioned that several of these roads are used as cut throughs to Woodbury, etc. Kitty & Rick Hunt, Golf Course Road, Laura Benn, Bell Hill Road, and Margaret Freeland, Old Litchfield Road, reiterated the dangers of turning onto Wykeham from their respective roads at the present time and are very concerned about the future and a plan that would bring even more increased traffic. Galen Quist, Wykeham Road, has seen a large transformation in the traffic following the repaving of Wykeham several years ago-especially truck traffic. He has spoken to the police several times and does not feel they are cooperating in enforcing the speed limits and offenders are not being ticketed. Sandra Canning, Ives Road, expressed her support for those who spoke today and assured them that there are many who are not "neighbors" who also support them. She advised them to stay in touch and work together. Mitchell Borenstein, Wykeham Road, asked who had placed the traffic counters on and around Wykeham. No one knew.

First Selectman Mark Lyon addressed the group, thanked them for attending today's meeting, and mentioned receiving quite a bit of correspondence on the proposed Wykeham Rise project. He explained to those present that although everyone is welcome to attend Board of Selectmen's meetings and is welcome and encouraged to voice their concerns, opinions, etc., the Board of Selectmen does not have any purview, or authority, over the Land Use Commissions. Each commission needs to follow their regulations and make their decisions accordingly. Each application will be reviewed fairly and be given due process. The public is also given the opportunity to speak at public hearings. He thanked the public for various topics that were brought up today and will look into the No Thru Truck regulations, the lack of speed limit enforcement, who placed the traffic counters, etc. He further explained that Wykeham Road, has been designated a "Rural Minor Collector" road by the State of Connecticut (state monies were

given to improve it several years ago). Nick Solley explained that this project not only repaved the road but also brought it up to safer specifications. He addressed the subject of more stop signs, speed humps, etc. and explained that each would need to be evaluated for their placement safety. The Town needs to be aware of the liability that any encumbrance would have on the safety of the public. He reiterated support of Mark's statement that the Board of Selectmen cannot tell any of the commissions how to vote on an application. Trucks do have a right to travel the smaller town roads to make deliveries etc. if their destination is in Washington. If it were determined that trucks were cutting through some of the smaller, winding, residential roads to get a shorter route from one town to another, the company could be contacted and advised to take a different route.

Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Secretary