

• April 7, 2005

Present: First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Nicholas Solley and Harry Wyant.

Public: Addie Roberts, Mark Lyon.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 23, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.
- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 1, 2005 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Addie Roberts, Planning Commission Chairman** came to today's meeting to discuss and update the Selectmen on the Depot Planning Study. The Planning Commission has interviewed several companies and has chosen the one they would like to use. The Planning Commission would like to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town enter into a contract with Wilbur Smith Associates. Addie then outlined the Proposed "Phase 1 Task Schedule and Due Dates" which will begin the first week of May and last 12 weeks, culminating in a final plan for presentation and adoption. Following Addie's presentation there was general discussion regarding moving into implementation of the plan in the fall, prioritizing projects, budget requests and process, etc. The question was raised about privately owned properties that are in the "gateway areas" of the Depot. The general consensus is that at least some of the owners will be willing to participate in the plan.

Communications:

- **Richard Dutton** has written a letter discussing different financial philosophies that perhaps the Town should look at. Various scenarios were proposed. The Selectmen will refer and discuss further with the Board of Finance.
- **Hank Martin** has communicated with the Selectmen regarding an article that appeared in the "Litchfield County Times" quite some time ago regarding the sale of the Institute for Hospitality Management and a derogatory reference that was made by a local real estate agent about the land use process in Washington which possibly discouraged a purchase by the Graduate Institute. Mr. Martin has received communication from the Graduate Institute stating that zoning application process and requirements were by no means an impediment... and indeed thanked the entire Land Use office for their cooperation and assistance during discussions.
- **Tom and Ann Tibbatts** have emailed the Selectmen regarding a problem with the Post Office and the delivery of incorrect mail to their address and their mail being incorrectly delivered to other addresses. Dick has spoken to the local Post Office regarding this communication. They have also addressed a concern about the site line at the intersection at the Washington Supply corner. Dick will write to the Supply and inquire as to the possibility of not allowing larger vehicles park in the three spaces closest to the intersection.
- **Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy** has written a letter proposing a program in Connecticut

where two communities get together ("sister cities/towns") to exchange information, co-sponsor activities, etc. Dick will look into this further.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Under Age Drinking Legislation:** Dick reported that he testified before the State Legislature in favor of a Bill dealing with Under Age Drinking. Appearing to get favorable reviews.
- **Housing Diversity Report:** The Committee has submitted their report to the Selectmen. Suggestions have been made, etc. The Selectmen will review the report further and extend their thanks to the committee for a job well done.
- **Revaluation Report:** a request was made a year and a half ago to conduct a Sales Comparison study dealing with assessed value vs. the sales price of properties in the Town. This draws no conclusions - simply reports the numbers. This has been done by the Assessor and will be forwarded on to the Board of Finance, the Town's website and the resident who made the request.
- **April 12, 2005, 7:30p.m. - Shepaug River Informational/Town Meeting.** Reminder.
- **Pavilion Renovation - Bathroom Addition Construction:** Work has started!

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Proposal for new phone system:** Schultz Communications has submitted a proposal for a new Town Hall phone system. This will not be considered this "budget season" but possibly next.
- **Historic Preservation Grant Resolution: Motion: Resolved:** That Richard C. Sears, First Selectman, or Sheila M. Anson, Town Clerk, as his designee, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Washington, an application and contract with the State Library for an Historic Preservation Grant. Sheila M. Anson, Town Clerk, is hereby designated as the Agent for making the above application. By Richard C. Sears, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:22p.m. as there was no further business to discuss. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary