**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**January 29, 2015**

***Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.***

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Richard O. Carey.

Public: Chris Charles, Joan Lodsin, Delisse Locher, Jordan Christian.

**Call to order:** Selectman Richard O. Carey called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

**Communications:**

* **State DOT & Barnett correspondence:** Mr. & Mrs. Howard Barnett, 33 Sabbaday Lane, wrote a letter to the State DOT expressing their concern over State Project 150-131 – replacement of Bridge over Mallory Brook (Route 109 & Blackville Road). The DOT has responded to the Barnett’s explaining the project specifics, studies performed, etc. in hopes this will address their concerns. The Selectmen felt no action was necessary on their part. The DOT has held public hearings on the projects and met with affected property owners.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

**First Selectman’s Report:** First Selectman Mark Lyon reported the following:

* **Community Services Specialist, Samantha Sommerer,** (Social Services) has begun working at the Town Hall. Her hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
* **Homeland Towers letter:** Mark Lyon has written Homeland Towers requesting monthly rental payments be made to the Town effective October 1, 2014 per the lease agreement. Town Attorney, David Miles, reviewed the letter prior to its being sent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Update on Region #12 discussions:** Mark Lyon explained that the application for Region #12 to add an agriculture/science program is progressing. He further explained that contrary to what has been published in the newspapers, he and Roxbury First Selectman, Barbara Henry, have spoken with Litchfield First Selectman Leo Paul indicating they would be interested in continuing conversations in the future regarding a merging of the two districts. He further explained there would be follow up conversations with Region #12 Superintendent. Discussions with the Town’s representatives may also be helpful as when dealing with the State Board of Education.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Support/Sponsor “Voices of Poetry” event:** Washington’s Poet Laureate, Jesse Steinmetz, has requested the Town to sponsor the Voices of Poetry event, February 21, 2015 at the Gunn Library, by contributing a total of $400. This would not only support the event but show the Town’s support of the arts. Founder of Voices of Poetry, Neil Silberblatt, has also written requesting support of the event. **Motion:** In appreciation of the arts, the Town of Washington will support the Voices of Poetry event at the Gunn Memorial Library on February 21, 2015 with a contribution of $400.00. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey. Discussion: Jordan Christian, a Pilobolus dancer, expressed her support of the arts and gratitude to the Selectmen for their support. The motion passed unanimously.

**Visitors:**

* **Chris Charles** raised questions regarding the Town Enforcement Officer’s “Enforcement Report” presented at IW meetings and the notification of people who may be discussed as a result of his report. Mark Lyon explained that if a particular application/property is to be discussed, it is listed on the agenda. However, the “Enforcement Report” contains numerous ongoing or “open” issues that are not scheduled to be discussed and therefore the property owner would not, and will not, be notified prior to the meeting. Mr. Charles felt that if the enforcement report were put on the website prior to the meetings, individuals would have an opportunity to review it.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

* **Motion:** To enter into Executive Sessionat 5:49 p.m. to discuss a pending litigation, Peter Brennan vs. Town of Washington. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen exited Executive Session at 5:59 p.m. and re-entered their regular meeting.

**MOTION:** To accept the proposed Settlement Agreement between Peter Brennan and the Town of Washington. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Carey, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Secretary