

# January 29, 2004

**Present:** First Selectman Richard Sears, Selectmen Nick Solley and Harry Wyant.  
**Press:** John Addyman, Voices; Sarah Sparks, Waterbury Republican.  
**Public:** Adam Woodruff, Trooper Steve Sordi.

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

**Minutes: Motion:** To accept the minutes of the January 15, 2004 Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented by Harry Wyant, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

**Visitors: Adam Woodruff** came to the Selectmen's meeting to discuss his Eagle Scout Project which is to build a foot bridge in the Macricostas Preserve of Steep Rock. He is looking for a place to store materials and to construct the bridge and was inquiring about the old Town Garage. Contractor Pete Bennett has agreed to move materials that Adam will be using that came from the old Washington Montessori School and to the "construction site" and then to move the bridge out when completed. Adam is hoping to have the project completed within a 3-4 week time (mid February-mid March). As the highway department stores equipment, police vehicle, sweeper, Engine 6, chipper, etc. there is concern about the amount of space that would be available for Adam. Harry Wyant and Nick Solley agreed to look at the space and let Adam know if it would be large enough. Other suggestions of places were also made. Harry also offered to speak to Butch Wyant re: space in his building. Dick Sears asked that the minutes reflect "congratulations" to Adam on a job well done and for coming as far as he has with his project.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**I. Trooper Steve Sordi** came to discuss two grants: **1) Police Vehicle Grant:** This grant is under the State's DUI Enforcement Program and may help with payment of the new police vehicle that has already been approved for purchase. The grant specifies that the vehicle has to be designated at the "DUI vehicle". The state would reimburse 80% of the cost of the new vehicle. The Selectmen unanimously agreed it is worthwhile to apply for this grant. **2) Positive Police Interaction with Youth Grant:** Trooper Sordi that this grant (in the amount of \$12,000) would be done in conjunction with the Shepaug Youth Association (as the sponsoring agency), the Town, and the State Police Troop Explorer's Program. The grant monies would allow us to offer youth in Region #12 a program to certify them on mountain bikes to assist the police department with patrolling. They would be trained in CPR and as First Responders. The monies would help buy the bikes and pay for training. We would develop the program and would set requirements re: age group, etc. Because this would be applied for as a "Region" these trained youth would also be used in Bridgewater and Roxbury. Possible patrol areas would be Steep Rock, land preserves in other towns, July 4th fireworks, etc. Steve said that volunteers from the SYA have already come forward to work with this program. Nick Solley asked who would fund the program after the first year. Steve feels the SYA would make the commitment. Dick Sears will be meeting with the First Selectmen of Roxbury and Bridgewater next week and will discuss.

**II. Budget Planning Process:** Dick Sears reported that the budget planning process has begun and as a part of this, he and the other two selectmen have been meeting with all Town employees to give an opportunity to hear concerns, plan for the future, etc.

**III. Implementation of Recommendation of the Plan of Conservation and Development/Board of Selectmen Responsibilities: 1) Preserving Rural Character:** a) establish Open Space Committee: discussion followed as to whether this should be a separate commission adopted by ordinance and/or

Town Meeting or should it be an ad hoc committee of the Conservation Commission. Susan Payne, Chairman of Conservation, will be invited to the next Selectmen's meeting to get her idea on this. b)adopt an Open Space Plan. **2)Agricultural and Farming:** It is also a responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to support local agricultural by PA 490. Nick Solley and Harry Wyant explained that there are tax breaks for farm land - landowners who rent land for farming can also get tax breaks. This should be encouraged.**3)Enhance Village Centers:** The Planning Commission has asked two of its members to look for a consultant to discuss Washington Depot. The Board of Selectmen would support this by budget requests. **4)Housing Diversity:** Reconstitute the Housing Study Committee to conduct an evaluation of strategies to accomplish the goals of the Housing Study Committee of 2002. Suggestion made to have a public discussion of housing needs and wants dealing with acquisition of land, single family dwellings/multiple family dwellings. Townspeople should be involved. There is a state mandated 10% affordable housing. Dick reported that the Ellsworth apartments may be added into this percentage and there is legislation proposed to include accessory apartments. Dick also suggested a "Housing Diversity Committee" which would include members from the first committee plus other interested parties. Board of Selectmen would appoint this committee which would be made up of 6-10 members. **5)Community Facilities:** This section would address public works requirements which Selectmen feel is being done. STEAP grant will help fund putting the new town garage property to best use. Also to be discussed is the evaluation of needs and space availability for municipal uses of Bryan Memorial Town Hall and other municipal properties. The Building and Properties Committee is going to be doing a study of the Town Hall along with the BMTH Trustees. **6)Town Roads:** This addresses the evaluation of abandoned and discontinued roads and unrestricted use options of these roads. This is being done by the Road Discontinuance Committee. **7)Telecommunications:** The responsibility of the Board of Selectmen is to identify appropriate municipal representation before State tower siting proceedings; monitor and reevaluate zoning regulations for guidance in such participation. **8)Community Spirit:** The Board of Selectmen are to explore means of expanding dissemination of information on important Town issues through the Town web site, Washington Times newsletter and public workshops. The Selectmen feels this is being done and work has begun on the Town's 225th Anniversary celebration that will involve the whole Town. Dick reported that currently there are plans for a picnic/parade in late August, a Talent Show in the fall and a New Year's Eve Dance. There will also be smaller events planned throughout the years. Wendell Minor is working on developing a logo for the Anniversary.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Secretary