

April 16, 2009

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

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

Press: Ann Compton-VOICES, Jack Coraggio-Litchfield County Times.

Public: Joe Mustich, Ken Cornet, Wayne Hileman, Janet Buonaiuto, Janet Wildman, Denise Arturi, Chris Charles.

Call to Order: First Selectman Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

* Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 2, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Communications:

* Correspondence from Joseph Mustich:

Mark Lyon read the letter into the minutes. (a copy of which is attached to these minutes filed with the Town Clerk). Mr. Mustich's letter addressed his concern that the Town had not had an independent appraisal nor environmental tests done prior to asking the town to vote on the purchase of 108 New Milford Turnpike. At the Town Meeting the purchase was approved with the contingency that environmental tests are done and favorable results reported. Mark explained that LFR Environmental Management & Consulting Engineering had been hired to do the study. Russell Dirienzo of LFR will contact the Selectmen when the Phase I update is completed. Based on information received, a decision will be made as to how to proceed. Mr. Mustich has received an anonymous email alerting interested parties that there may have been dumping at one time and therefore potential environmental issues. . Mark and Nick Solley assured those present that these concerns would be passed along. Nick further explained that Mr. Dirienzo had done a Phase I study in August 2006. Permission is required from the person who had hired him to proceed with an "update". A questionnaire goes to current owner asking if he/she is aware of disposing of any hazardous materials. Janet Buonaiuto asked if the results would be made public at a Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mark assured her they would be.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report: Mark Lyon reported:

* Jane Boyer of Washington Garden Club has notified him that Bill Pollock of Arbor Services will be trimming the Charter Oak tree on the Town Hall property. There will be no charge to the Town. Thank you to the Garden Club and Bill Pollock!

* Earth Day will be celebrated on Sunday, April 26th in Washington. A dumpster will be in the front of the Town Hall for volunteers to deposit their roadside clean up garbage.

* Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 7 at 7:30p.m. at the Town Hall and the Annual Town Budget Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 7:30p.m.

* Attorney General Blumenthal has requested the State Office of Policy Management to investigate issues that several Towns in Connecticut had had with Total Valuation. The Town of Washington will cooperate with this investigation.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Clark Road: Questions have been raised regarding the sub-division of property off Clark Road and who

will be responsible for maintenance if a portion is discontinued by the Town. Mark explained that all information and correspondence has not been received. When it is, the Town Attorney will review it.

* Awarding of Bid for Painter Ridge Road project: Bids were received from several companies regarding the reclaiming and re-paving of Painter Ridge Rd. As this road is part of the Rural Minor Connector program with the State, bids were reviewed by the State Department of Transportation. They have recommended Waters Construction to do the job. Motion: At the suggestion of the Department of Transportation, Reclaiming and Repaving of Painter Ridge Road from the Roxbury town line to Nichols Hill Road will be awarded to Waters Construction. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Judea Garden: Mark explained that the Judea Garden Committee had contacted him regarding this project – a vegetable garden that would be planted and maintained by volunteers from the community from churches, organizations, etc. Vegetables would be distributed to needy individuals and families in Washington and surrounding areas. Steep Rock has generously agreed to allow the garden to be planted at Macricostas Preserve. Steep Rock is requesting a formal agreement and the Garden Committee is requesting the Town act as the “sponsor” rather than one organization that may limit it being perceived as a community project. Discussion followed with all feeling this to be a worthy project. Motion: To support the Judea Garden Project and to support the Town of Washington being named as it’s sponsor, pending consultation with the Town’s insurance company. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

* Board of Education Candidates Forum: 7 candidates have been nominated for 4 positions. The Town will hold a Candidates Forum on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Bryan Memorial Town Hall. Voting will take place on May 5 at the Region #12 Budget Referendum. Janet Wildman also announced that the Republican Town Committee would be holding a forum at Legion Hall on April 21 at 7:00 p.m. Ken Cornet graciously volunteered to film any candidate who could not attend the forum but who would like to give a statement.

* Lake Waramaug Inter-local Agreement between Warren, Washington and Kent: The current Agreement will be expiring. The three First Selectmen of the Towns surrounding the Lake are on the advisory board of the Inter-local Commission. Some minor changes to the Agreement have been suggested. The Town Attorney will review and if satisfied, signing of the Agreement will be placed on the Town Meeting Agenda.

Visitors:

* Wayne Hileman – Housing Commission Update on Titus Road: As Chairman of the Housing Commission, Wayne wanted to update the Board of Selectmen on the study of 16 Titus Road (old town garage property). Several months ago, Liddy Adams of the Commission, had come to speak about having this property designated as an Incentive Housing Zone by the State. This program, through the State, has been cut. Without funding from the State, the Commission does not feel it makes sense to pursue this particular avenue. However, they may continue to pursue an area of this property for housing – possibly senior housing, or a “mixed use” which would include housing with businesses. They have recommended a change to the zoning regulations that currently prohibit “senior housing”. Do not want to use the affordable housing act to achieve what they feel the Town needs or wants. The Housing Commission will also approach the Planning Commission.

* Janet Wildman came to address the Selectmen regarding the list of Board and Commission members that is currently on the Town’s website. She feels it would be helpful to know when terms for these positions expire. The Selectmen agreed to have this information given to the web master. She also felt there should be a policy and/or ordinance that would prohibit someone serving on the Board of Finance if they are currently on the Board of an organization that receives funds from the Town. Mark mentioned that the Northwest Connecticut Council of Governments has begun to work on a concise Code of Ethics that towns could use. He will ask if this issue has or will be addressed.

* Chris Charles referred to the Housing Commission report, the Plan of Conservation and Development and Depot Study that all addressed the need for housing, determination of flood plains and analysis of septic soils in the Depot. He voiced his support of moving forward on the Titus Road property study and possible uses.

Adjournment:

* Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:43 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