

May 8, 2003

Present:

Selectmen: Elaine Luckey, Nick Solley, Harry Wyant

Guests: Jim Brinton; Simone Rourk; Joan Talbot

First Selectman Elaine Luckey called the regular meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Old Town Garage Site: Jim Brinton discussed the Town's plans for the old garage site on Titus Road with the Selectmen. He requested a general cleanup be done, as well as a possible buffering of the property. The Selectmen agreed that a general cleanup is necessary and Elaine reported the future of this property is still in question. While it has not been included in the revision of the Plan of Development due to costs, it has been suggested that a consultant be used to address the future of this area, as well as the traffic in the Depot. Elaine noted the land is partially in a floodway, as well as a flood plain. According to D.E.P. regulations, building is not allowed in a floodway. The Town may not go beyond the channel encroachment lines. In addition, local planning and zoning regulations require at least a 200 ft. setback from the Shepaug River. The Selectmen are inclined to wait until the Planning Commission has provided suggestions; however, they felt the garage building would remain at the site for the foreseeable future. Future possibilities were discussed, including the Town's use of the land, it's use by others to recoup money for the Town, and/or selling the land. The possibility of it being used for recreational fields by the private schools on a lease agreement was suggested. Elaine's personal opinion was that the Town should keep the land and that it should be cleaned up and made as attractive as possible for the time being. It was agreed that those who have left vehicles on the site will be contacted to remove them and that the debris that has accumulated by the river will be removed by the Town. Jim noted his concern about possible contamination from oil and fuel spillage. The Town continues to monitor for salt as required by the D.E.P.; and through general attenuation, the salt is decreasing. There has been no indication that there are other contaminants. Jim also noted that a levee seems to have built up in the river. Elaine felt this might have been done for flood prevention. The Selectmen plan to use some STEAP grant funds to assist in cleaning up this property, as well as prepare a site plan for additional space at the new garage site to store equipment that is currently at the old site. Jim indicated he would be interested in serving on a committee if one is formed to address the future of this property.

STEAP Grant - New Preston: Simone Rourk of Hinckley Road inquired about specific plans for use of STEAP grant funds in the Church Street neighborhood. The Selectmen reported the grant funds would be used to address drainage concerns, hydrants, curbing, sidewalks, possibly upgrading drainage in the town-owned field and street paving. As president of the New Preston Water Company, Simone reported neighbors are concerned that the STEAP funds would be used for the housing project. The Selectmen noted the funds could not be used for a private project, whether it is the housing or to replace water pipes. It would be the responsibility of the Water Company to dig up the road to replace pipes and to replace the material around them. The Town would be willing to patch these road strips in order to allow for safe travel. Once the Housing Trust completes the housing project, the Town would repave the street. Simone suggested many residents would like to see a playground in the recreational field to replace the one currently at the Washington Montessori School. The Selectmen agreed this was not included in the grant application but that the Town most likely could assist in a fund raising or providing funds toward this idea

United Nations Flag: Joan Talbot reported the U.N. flag had been flown for United Nations Day in October in front of the town hall. She requested it be flown on a permanent basis below the United States and Connecticut flags in front of the town hall. At this point in time, it was felt there is divided feeling regarding the United Nations. The Selectmen felt that since it might create controversy within the Town,

they did not feel they would approve this request. Ms. Talbot thanked them for their consideration.

Minutes: Consideration of the minutes of the April 24 public hearing regarding the amendment to the floodplain ordinance, the April 24 special meeting regarding the historic preservation grant and the regular meeting of April 24 were tabled until the next regular meeting.

Correspondence:

Church Street STOP sign: A memo received from Hank Martin, chairman of the Zoning Commission, indicated the Commission strongly recommends a three-way STOP be initiated on Church Street in New Preston. The Selectmen agreed to erect a STOP sign on the corner of the church property for drivers facing the town field. Elaine Luckey so moved. Harry Wyant seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Ordinance 306D: Elaine reported she had made revisions to the Transfer Station Ordinance to delete waste oil and add plastics #1 and #2. The Selectmen agreed on the additional amendment that the fees would be set by the Board of Selectmen, which will be determined by the current costs to the Town for removal of bulky waste.

Land Use Commission fees: Discussion was held regarding land use application fees for Planning, Zoning and Zoning Board of Appeals via the establishment of a new town ordinance. It was felt further discussion would be beneficial and the land use commission chairmen will be consulted.

Town Meeting - May 22, 2003 - 7:30 p.m:

Elaine Luckey made a motion to publish the following agenda for the proposed town meeting:

The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that the Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington, Connecticut, to consider and act upon the following agenda:

1. To consider and act upon the proposed General Fund Expenses for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.
2. To consider and act upon the proposed Nonrecurring Capital Expenses for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.
3. To consider and act upon an Ordinance regarding the appointment of the Assistant to the Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics.
4. To consider and act upon an Ordinance regarding the affixing of street numbers for public safety purposes.
5. To consider and act upon a motion to rescind Town Ordinance 306E entitled "Disposal Fees for Residential Bulky Waste and Recyclables" and to amend Town Ordinance 306D regarding Transfer Station Regulations, including but not limited to the setting of disposal fees.
6. To consider and act upon an Ordinance to rescind the current Floodplain Management Ordinance, as amended, and to replace it with a new Ordinance.
7. To consider and act upon a motion to enter into a Recyclables Diversion Agreement with the Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee.
8. To elect two (2) members to the Shepaug Valley Regional School District #12 Board of Education

from the Town of Washington.

Nicholas Solley seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Selectman's Assistant