

• **September 23, 2004**

Present: First Selectman Richard C. Sears, Selectmen Nicholas N. Solley, Harry H. Wyant.
Visitors: John McCarthy, Ken Cornet, Joe Mustich.

Call to Order: First Selectman Sears called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Motion: To include subsequent business not appearing on the posted Agenda for today's meeting. By Dick Sears, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Minutes: Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 9, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Visitors: John McCarthy of the Washington Art Association attended today's meeting to ask if there were any questions regarding the letter sent by him on behalf of the WAA which in summary proposes the Town transfer to the Art Association a piece of land extending fifty feet directly in back of, and parallel to, their existing property line. This would enable them to extend their building by thirty-five feet - space they feel is needed for their educational programs. It was explained to Mr. McCarthy that as it involves Town land the issue needs to go before the Planning Commission and if approved by them, eventually to a Town Meeting. Nick Solley suggested that if Planning approves, approvals from the other Town commissions should be obtained before going to a Town Meeting. **Motion:** The Board of Selectmen recommends that the Washington Art Association's proposal to acquire a piece of Town property be referred to the Planning Commission. By Nick Solley, seconded by Dick Sears and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **West Mountain Road signage:** Joe Mustich and Ken Cornet, Nettleton Hollow Residents, were present at today's meeting to discuss the "Private Drive" sign that has been installed at the intersection of West Mountain Road and Nettleton Hollow Road. The West Mountain Road sign has been taken down. The Selectmen explained that that section of West Mountain Road was formally discontinued at a Town Meeting and the reason the Private Drive sign was put up was to prohibit vehicular traffic from going down West Mountain from Nettleton Hollow. Only one house is on that section of road and there is no room for cars to go in and turn around once they would make the turn in. Joe and Ken are concerned as pedestrian and bike passage is still allowed on the Town's discontinued portion and residents will not realize this with a Private Drive sign. There is Steep Rock property as well as Town property for people to use for "recreational purposes". After lengthy discussion it was determined that Steep Rock would also be brought into the conversation as well as the property owners of the one house so that signage agreeable to all might be decided upon. One idea was to reinstall the West Mountain Road sign with a sign directly under it that read "Closed to Vehicular Traffic".

- **Proposed New Milford development abutting Walker Brook Road, Washington:** Dick Sears has written a letter to the New Milford Zoning Commission expressing concerns on how a development of this size would impact Washington. The Conservation Commission has already written and other Washington commission letters may also follow.

- **Small Cities Grant bid discussion and project timing:** The Selectmen explained there was a slight

delay with drawings, bid specs, etc. with the elevator project in the Town Hall but is moving ahead.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Thank you to "Tribute to Washington"** committee, participants, volunteers, attendees for a wonderful evening - huge success with standing room only. Nick Solley asked that the minutes reflect a special thank you and acknowledgment of the Woody Guthrie/aka Richard Sears finale!
 - **COST membership:** The Town had terminated its membership with COST when it joined CCM several years ago. There was discussion as to whether there would be merits in re-joining - one advantage being they deal ONLY with small towns whereas CCM deals with large and small city/town issues. CCM has been very helpful with researching various subjects. It was decided not to join at this point in the year (not budgeted for) but to discuss at budget time and to evaluate the costs and pros and cons of belonging to both organizations.
 - **Town Meeting Agenda: Motion:** The agenda for the October 4, 2004 Town Meeting will be: 1) to set the date for the Annual Town Budget Hearing as May 5, 2005 at 7:30p.m. and the Annual Town Budget Meeting as May 19, 2005; 2) Introduction and Discussion of the Town's Planning Process. There will be an informal reception following the Town Meeting to further discuss the planning process forums that are scheduled over the next several weeks.
 - **Invitation to Bid Pavilion Hall, New Preston: Motion:** To extend an Invitation to Bid for painting of Pavilion Hall in New Preston. Sealed bids will be due on October 7, 2004 at 4:00p.m. Specs will be available in the Selectmen's Office.
 - **Washington Community Housing Trust cistern location request:** The Housing Trust is asking for consideration of placement of a 10,000 gallon cistern under the Nick Platt Field in New Preston that would serve the new Church Street housing project. **Motion:** The Selectmen will refer the request from the Washington Community Housing Trust to place a cistern on the Nick Platt Field (Town property) to the Planning Commission in accordance with CGS 8-24. By Nick Solley, seconded by Harry Wyant and unanimously approved.
- Adjournment: Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:29p.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