



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Windham Economic Development Committee
WEDC
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 13, 2012

Present: Chairman, Bob Young; Members: Bruce Breton, Dianne Connolly, Bev Donovan, Al Letizio, Jr., Sy Wrenn, Jay Yennaco (depart, 9am)

Late Arrival: Sally D'Angelo (7:35), Paul Gosselin (7:36), Ralph Valentine (7:43, depart, 9:15)

Excused: Derrick McManus, Laura Scott

Chairman Young opened the meeting with a welcome to Mr. Bruce Breton, the Committee's new liaison from the Board of Selectmen.

VOTED: On motion made (B. Donovan) and seconded (Jay Yennaco), the 3/9/12 minutes were approved. 5-0-2 (Bruce Breton, Dianne Connolly abstaining)

Chairman Young briefly addressed the town's new **Conflict of Interest** regulation by noting that members of the Economic Development Committee are considered "covered persons" under the regulation. Discussion ensued regarding the 180 waiting period as the Board of Selectmen waits for a "declaratory judgment". Mr. Breton stated that the document as submitted to the court will be public shortly and suggested that the topic be put on next month's WEDC agenda for further discussion. All concurred.

Design Review Committee Report: Chairman Young opened the discussion by thanking Mr. Ralph Valentine and his sub-committee for their good work and Mr. Valentine especially for his very positive presentation to the Planning Board. Mr. Valentine, Mr. Sycamore and Mr. Wrenn all agreed that the interactions between the WEDC and the Planning Board are extremely collaborative, with the WEDC input being helpful to the Planning Board's deliberations. Discussion ensued regarding safety issues and lighting. The Design Review subcommittee will meet on 4/19 at 8am to review issues for the May Planning Board meeting.

TRC Report: Mr. Gosselin discussed the most recent TRC meeting and raised the question of his authority when speaking to and/or supporting specific issues that come before the TRC. Extensive discussion ensued. Mr. Breton and Mr. Partington expressed specific concern about WEDC members who also serve on other deliberative boards and whose responsibility to make decisions may be compromised. Concluding the discussion, the WEDC **reached consensus** on the following process:

Mr. Gosselin will review TRC packets and will highlight specific items on which he feels the WEDC should comment. This information will be sent to the WEDC members

APPROVED



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to review, excepting those WEDC members who serve on deliberative boards. Chairman Young will monitor email comments and, time permitting, bring various items to the next WEDC meeting for discussion. Mr. Gosselin will report back to the WEDC about those items he addresses at the TRC meetings and on which the WEDC has agreed on comments and/or support.

Chairman Young asked for other board updates. Of note, Mr. Sycamore and Mr. Breton discussed the sidewalks which the state DOT is proposing.

VOTED: Upon motion made (R. Valentine) and seconded (B. Donovan), the WEDC authorizes Chairman Young to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen in support of the concept of sidewalks in and around Exit 3, as detailed on the DOT drawing dated 2/21/12. Approved 7 - 0 - 2 (Abstaining: B. Breton, S. Wrenn)

Chairman Young introduced two items:

The state is planning to sell the current Delahunty property, giving the town right of first refusal.

VOTED; Upon motion made (R. Valentine) and seconded (B. Donovan), the WEDC authorized Chairman Young to submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that the town not purchase the identified property but rather allow for its purchase by property developers to increase commercial space in the town. Approved 7-0-2 (Abstaining, B. Breton, S. Wrenn)

Moody's has downgraded the Windham School bonds. Chairman Young read a list of reasons upon which Moody's made its decision.

VOTED: Upon motion made (R. Valentine) and seconded (A. Letizio), the WEDC authorized Chairman Young to send a letter to the School Board and to the Board of Selectmen urging them to give utmost consideration to selling school buildings and lots which are considered for disposition to allow such entities to return to the town's tax roles, thus providing tax relief to the town. Approved 7-1-1 (Nay: B. Young; Abstaining, B. Breton).

On point of order, Mr. Letizio requested that the discussion of yearly goals remaining on today's agenda be moved to the first order of business at the May 11th meeting. All concurred.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18am.

APPROVED