

Windham Economic Development Committee Meeting
FINAL Minutes
February 10th 2017

Present:	Absent:
G.Fredette	D.Morris
G.Garfield	M.Magnuson
M.Oldenburg	E.Gallagher
K. St. Laurent	D. Feroce
L.Walker	B.Richardson
R.Norman	
J. Desilets	

7:43 A.M meeting called to order, Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chair Gary Garfield. Minutes of January 13th meeting. George Fredette suggested an expansion of material in the minutes. Motion made by Gary Fredette seconded by Kristi St. Laurent to approve. Motion carried 5-0-1.

It was determined that subcommittees have the authorization to approve their respective minutes.

Subcommittee updates:

Communications: Rex Norman submitted a press release on current water use with a series of articles to follow in The Windham Independent. The initial article is positioned as an introduction to the issues such as number of wells failing. The plan will be to submit a series of articles discussing well easements, and other effects on water in town.

Joel Desilets asked committee to support well easement in the Village Center District. A warrant seeks to obtain permission to use wells on town land for the development. Gary Garfield will draft a letter of support or the easement to the Windham Independent.

Infrastructure:

Discussed support of easement of Village Center District. Ralph Valentine will be on hand to answer question at deliberative session on Saturday the 11th.

Rex Norman to meet with John Bouvier of Pennichuck Waterworks to discuss water expansion.

- Limits of Aquifer
- Impact of drilling at Village Center District

Ralph Valentine and Mike Oldenburg met with Senator Birdsell in support of regional approach to water using MBTE funds. She indicated she would discuss with Senator Morse. Senator Morse has agreed to a meeting with the infrastructure committee. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 22nd at 7:30 AM

The committee agreed the meeting should be open to the public and recorded. Dick Gregory suggested that the committee understand fully the selectmen's position on the topic. George Fredette commented that he is not convinced the selectmen are on board. Kristi St. Laurent offered water has been a topic in the past and there is distrust among the residents to move forward. A strong sentiment exists to keep the town's rural character intact. The historic loss of water on Canobie may present an opportunity to revisit a discussion on the topic noting that selectmen are feeling pressure to find a solution. The talk with Senator Morse should have a regional tone and not just surrounding economic growth as other towns aren't going to have an interest in the economic growth of Windham. Rex Norman stated water issues could eventually lead to a reduction in the value of waterfront values.

Land Use:

Rex Norman pointed out that use of the police station is warrant #28. The school department wishes to lease the property for a timeline of approximately five years. Well easement is #29 on warrant.

Board of Selectman Update:

Joel Desilets informed the committee the Superintendent wishes to utilize the old police department building for storage, janitorial supplies etc. Another suggestion for use was registration. Significant money may need to be invested in building upgrades and repairs. Concerns that if for example \$200,000 is put into building it may include longer lease terms. Suggested the WEDC have a 5-year plan to address lease terms. Karl Dubay's data is needed for website. His company is evaluating the area surrounding the building.

Chamber of Commerce:

Executive Exchange on May 15th hosted by Mike Morin. Topic will be Balance of Media.

DOT has a 10-year plan to widen route 111 in 2020 in the area from Harwood to Wall St.

Motion made by Joel Desilets seconded by Mike Oldenberg to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 A.M.

Amendments:

Board of Selectman update should reflect that the Superintendent and the School Board support use of the old police department building for storage.

Chamber event is March 30th. Corrected spelling should read Hardwood Rd.