

**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
RETREAT
WEDNESDY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014
5:00 PM, WILLIAMS INN**

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

NOV 05 2014

AGENDA

TOWN CLERK

2:10 pm

I. Coordination between town boards.

- A. Proposed joint meeting with Planning Board, topics for discussion.**

II. Economic Development

- A. Update by Selectmen working on Economic Development.**
- B. Proposed areas of focus.**
- C. Loss of tax revenue from nonprofit institutions.**

III. Other business.

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Annual Retreat – Williams Inn
November 5, 2014
5:00 PM

Present: Ron Turbin, Chairman, Tom Sheldon, Andrew Hogeland, Hugh Daley, Jane Patton and Peter Fohlin

Mr. Turbin reported that he had followed up on the earlier suggestion that the Selectmen discuss the possibility of a joint meeting with the Planning Board to make sure the Selectmen's activities on an economic development plan were coordinated with whatever the Planning Board was doing on the Master Plan. He raised the idea with Ms. McGowan, chairperson of the Planning Board, who indicated support for a joint meeting. She suggested the future of Spring Street. Mr. Hogeland suggested to include an update what the Planning Board was doing on the Master Plan, and to also discuss the future of Water Street. The Board agreed, and Mr. Turbin will schedule a joint meeting.

Mr. Turbin reported that he had a favorable discussion with John Notsley of the Prudential Committee on planning for coordinating the annual elections and meetings of the Town and the Fire District. Mr. Turbin will approach the other two members of the Prudential Committee to see if they would support having the Fire District's elections and annual meeting being held on the same days as those of the Town.

The Board reviewed the October 13, 2014 discussion draft of an Economic Development Plan that had been prepared by Mr. Hogeland and Mr. Daley. Several suggestions were made and Mr. Hogeland agreed to incorporate the suggestions into a new draft in time for the Board's next meeting on November 12th. If the discussion draft was approved by the Board at that meeting, it would then be widely distributed for public comments, including one or more sessions coordinated with the Chamber of Commerce. The Board outlined a plan for the formation of a committee to work on the development of a final plan, possibly to be followed by a more long-term committee to oversee implementation of the plan. Mr. Sheldon agreed to serve as the collector of Selectmen's suggestions on candidates to serve on the plan development committee. The Board agreed to get suggestions to Mr. Sheldon by Thanksgiving.

Mr. Daley raised for discussion the concern that whenever Williams College or the Clark took over properties for tax-exempt purposes, the overall tax base of the Town was reduced, and the non-exempt taxpayers had to assume the burden of the lost assessments. The Board discussed options for negotiating agreements for having tax payments continue on a voluntary basis whenever a property was converted to tax-exempt status.

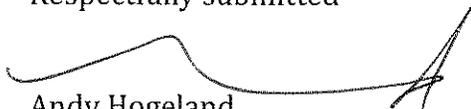
Mr. Daley raised the concern that regionalization of the elementary schools into the Mt. Greylock Regional School District was a topic on which the Board would be asked to take a

position. The Board agreed it would need to be well-informed as the studies progressed, and noted that a joint session was already scheduled for January 12, 2014.

Ms. Patton asked whether the Board was supposed to be doing anything on analyzing a split tax rate. The Board agreed there was no action required at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted


Andy Hogeland