

**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AGENDA
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013
7:00 PM**

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
330
JAN 24 2013
TOWN CLERK 

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:

2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES: January 14, 2013

3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

- A. 2013 Berkshire Humane Society Race – Saturday, May 4, 2013 (Christa Abel)
- B. MADOT Safety Study of Runaway Truck Ramp (Mark Moore)
- C. Save the Spruces Residents Flood Mitigation Study Request (Peter Russell)
- D. Transfer of Stetson Court to Williams College Discussion
- E. Letter of Support to MSBA for MGRSD Building Feasibility Study
- F. Selectmen's Representative to Regional School District Amendment Committee

4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:

- A. Request from the President and Trustees of Williams College for a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License on Sunday, February 3, 2013 from 6-11 p.m. at the Leutkemeyer Lounge in the Paresky Center for a Super Bowl Party.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

6. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

8. ADJOURN:

Next Selectmen's Meeting is Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013
7:00 PM**

Present: David A. Rempell, Chairman, Tom Costley, Thomas Sheldon, Jane B. Allen, Ronald Turbin

Others Present: Dawn Catelotti, Alix Cabrel, Mark Moore, Robert McCarthy, Sharon Sutter, Peter Russell, Lucy Sherrill, Carrie Greene, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT: Mr. Rempell announced there will be a FY14 Town Budget presentation on February 28, 2013 at a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Selectmen.

2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES: January 14, 2013 – Ms. Allen moved to approve the January 14, 2013 minutes. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

A. 2013 Berkshire Humane Society Race – Saturday, May 4, 2013 (Dawn Catelotti /Alex Cabrel) – Ms. Allen moved to approve the route for the 2013 Berkshire Humane Society Race. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

B. MADOT Safety Study of Runaway Truck Ramp – Mark Moore, Project Development Engineer for MADOT discussed results of an independent safety study on the Runaway Truck Ramp at Route 2 and Route 7, (document located in the Town Manager's office). The Town had requested this study following a fatal crash in 2011 in which a tractor-trailer commercial vehicle bypassed the truck ramp and crossed the intersection at Routes 2 and 7, collided with large concrete block barriers and eventually came to rest in a wooded area east of the roadway. MADOT assembled a team as listed in the report to study the details of the fatal crash, conducted a review of the geometric and other related features of the area, identified safety issues and contributing factors, and identified both short and long term safety improvements that can be implemented related to the truck ramp and truck operations both at the intersection and along the Route 2 downgrade approaching Route 7. Mr. Moore went over the handout showing Potential Safety Enhancement Summary to be implemented and Potential Safety Enhancement Summary – to be further evaluated. Mr. Moore said MADOT plans a number of steps to improve drivers' ability to see the entrance of the truck ramp including signage and vegetation clearing. In addition, they will install a camera at the ramp to document its usage to compile data to use in the future to take further steps. Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Sutter offered compelling accounts of conditions at the intersection. Ms. Sutter and her husband own the A-frame Bakery that sits directly across the street from the intersection making her location a direct target if the truck can't stop at the intersection. For that reason, they installed 7,000-pound concrete blocks in front of their business. Mr. McCarthy said he had witnessed many truck accidents and he has long contended that the drivers do not have enough time to turn onto the ramp when it becomes visible to them in a runaway truck situation. Mr. McCarthy said that because of the visibility issue for the drivers and the time it takes to make the decision to turn into the ramp, the solution proposed by MADOT is just not good enough. Mr. McCarthy said that school buses cross that intersection hundreds of times and when the fatal crash happened it

would have been around the time a school bus would have been driving there but fortunately, there was no school that day. Mr. McCarthy said the fixes MADOT have planned are not good enough. The approach to the ramp is the problem, not the lack of signage. Mr. Moore said MADOT doesn't know why the driver of the fatal crash didn't use the ramp and at this time, they don't know if the ramp is flawed. He said there are engineering mechanisms to straighten the road at a cost of tens of millions of dollars and this is not something they have looked at. Mr. Sheldon moved that the town manager draft a letter to MADOT thanking them for the study and the steps toward remediation they have decided to undertake and further to request that MADOT undertake further study about the realignment of the road. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0. (Letter: Attachment A)

C. Save the Spruces Residents Flood Mitigation Study Request (Peter Russell and Lucy Sherrill) - Ms. Sherrill stated that their group, who, call themselves members of "Save the Spruces," have collected signatures in a petition (petition in Town Manager's Office) requesting that the Board send a formal request to the Army Corp of Engineers to perform a study on ways to mitigate the flooding of the park.. Ms. Sherrill said that they believe nuisance water is coming from tributaries that flow beneath Rte. 2 on route to the Hoosic River. Mr. Costley moved to send a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0. (Attachment B)

D. Transfer of Stetson Court to Williams College Discussion – Mr. Fohlin explained that there have been ongoing discussions with Williams College to turn over Stetson Court to them. Since the Town widened the road to accommodate two-way traffic and on-street parking when it was rebuilt in 2007. Mr. Fohlin asked if the Board would permit him to go forward on turning the street over to the college. This would be a sensible outcome since the College owns all abutting property and that the street has no outlet and the Town would no longer be responsible for maintaining the surface, snowplowing, or issuing parking tickets. Mr. Costley moved to permit Mr. Fohlin to pursue turning over Stetson Court to Williams College. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

E. Letter of Support to MSBA for MGRSD Building Feasibility Study – Mr. Costley moved that the Board approve and send a letter to the Massachusetts School Building Association in support of the Mount Greylock Regional School District Building Feasibility Study. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0. (Attachment C)

F. Selectmen's Representative to Regional School District Amendment Committee – Mr. Costley nominated Mr. Turbin as the Selectmen's Representative to the Regional School District's Amendment Committee. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:

A. Request from the President and Trustees of Williams College for a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License on Sunday, February 3, 2013 from 6-11 p.m. at the Leutkemeyer Lounge in the Paresky Center for a Super Bowl Party:

Mr. Costley moved to approve the request from the President and Trustees of Williams College for a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License on Sunday, February 3, 2013 from 6-11 p.m. at the Leutkemeyer Lounge in the Paresky Center for a Super Bowl Party. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

6-11 p.m. at the Leutkemeyer Lounge in the Paresky Center for a Super Bowl Party. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: see attached report or at www.williamstown.net

6. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: None

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Water and Sewer Warrant – Ms. Allen moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$127,754.22. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

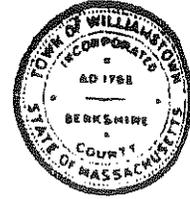
8. ADJOURN: Mr. Costley moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen's Meeting is Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald Turbin, Secretary

Town of Williamstown Massachusetts

Municipal Building
311 North Street
Williamstown, MA 01267
www.williamstown.net



OFFICE OF THE
SELECTMEN
David A. Rempell,
Chairman
413-458-3500
FAX 413-458-4839

January 29, 2013

Peter Niles, P.E., District Highway Director
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
270 Main St.
Lenox, MA 01240

Dear Mr. Niles:

I write on behalf of the Williamstown Board of Selectmen in response to the Safety Study prepared for MassDOT concerning the Route 2 Runaway Truck Ramp.

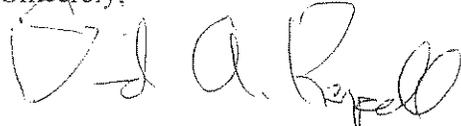
First, we want to thank you and your staff for: commissioning the study leading to the report; identifying multiple steps to enhance the safety and functionality of the truck ramp; implementing some of those improvements and planning to implement additional ones in the near future; and meeting with the Board and other town officials to explain the reasoning behind which enhancements are being advanced and which are not, at least anytime soon. You and your staff have been thoroughly professional, straightforward and respectful of our role.

Second, we want to express our serious concern that the proposed improvements do not include any realignment of Route 2 west of the ramp entrance to improve the angle of access. We understand that you do not believe the need for realignment has been established, that other enhancements may obviate the need for realignment, and that the cost and complexity of realignment are very high. Yet we worry that without road realignment the chances for another and possibly much more serious tragedy at the

Route 7 intersection are greater. We urge additional study and consideration as soon as practicable.

Thank you for your continuing attention to this highly important matter.

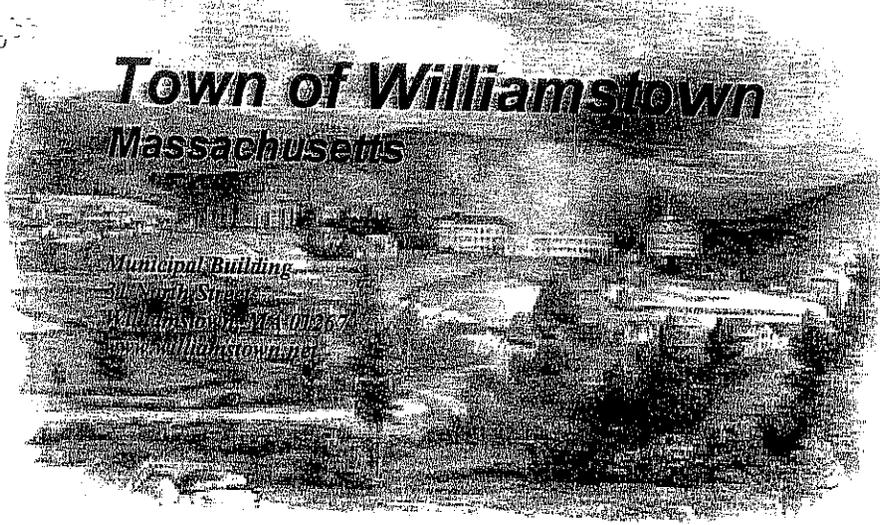
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. A. Rempell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David A. Rempell, Chairman

Cc: Richard A. Davey, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Frank DePaola, Administrator, Highway Division
Massachusetts Department of Transportation



OFFICE OF THE
SELECTMEN
David A. Rempell,
Chairman
413-458-3500
FAX 413-458-4839

January 29, 2013

Colonel Charles P. Samaris
Commander and District Engineer
Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

Dear Colonel Samaris:

As you are probably aware, Tropical Storm Irene caused massive flooding in Williamstown, resulting in the loss of over 150 units of housing in the Spruces Mobile Home Park. A number of the residents of the Park have approached the Board of Selectmen with a petition, asking that the Board request the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a study of the situation. It is the hope of the remaining residents that the flooding issue be solved so that they can remain at the Spruces.

At a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Monday, January 28, the Board voted to forward their request to ACOE. Please consider this letter as such a request for the study. A copy of their request is enclosed. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Rempell
Chairman

cc: Peter H. Russell

Enc: Save The Spruces request 01-11-13

SAVE THE SPRUCES



P.O. BOX 267 WILLIAMSTOWN, MA 01267

PETER RUSSELL
CHAIRPERSON

LUCY SHERRILL
VICE CHAIR

LINDA BELL
SECRETARY

MICHAEL DOLAN
TREASURER

MEMBERS AT LARGE
LINDA BRODEUR
LINDA CHESBRO
PATRICIA FIX
PHILIP ODZEMIR
SUSAN STEWART
DAVID WITHERELL

1/11/2013

TO; DAVID REMPELL,
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RE: PETITION

WE ARE AN INFORMAL GROUP OF RESIDENTS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN THE SPRUCES AS A VIABLE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE REACHED OUT TO THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO COMMENT ON OUR SITUATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A WAY TO MITIGATE THE FLOODING IN ORDER TO SAFELY REMAIN IN OUR HOMES.

THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REQUIRES THAT ANY STUDY CANNOT BE CREATED UNLESS A FORMALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT BODY MAKES THE REQUEST. A MAJORITY OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE SPRUCES HAVE SIGNED A PETITION ASKING YOU; ' THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN' TO MAKE THAT REQUEST TO THE CORPS.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE TWO TRIBUTARIES NORTH OF THE SPRUCES ARE SENDING NUISANCE WATER IN OUR DIRECTION WHICH FLOW THRU THE SPRUCES HEADED TO THE HOOSAC RIVER. CLEARLY THAT IS PART OF THE MAJOR CAUSE OF OUR FLOODING, ALONG WITH TWO DAMS UP STREAM OF US THAT RELEASE WATER WHEN THEY DECIDE TO.

AS SENIOR CITIZENS WE HAVE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH WITHOUT LOOSING ANY OF OUR FREEDOMS BY MOVING INTO GOVERNMENT HOUSING CONTROLLED BY WHO KNOWS WHAT AGENCY OR SOME OFFICIOUS MANAGER.

SINCERELY



PETER H. RUSSELL

Town of Williamstown Massachusetts

Municipal Building
51 North Street
Williamstown, MA 01267
www.williamstown.net



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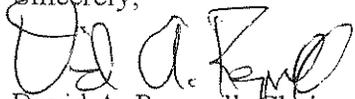
January 29, 2013

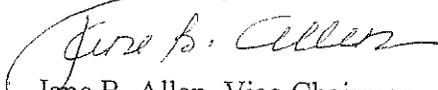
Dear Mr. McCarthy,

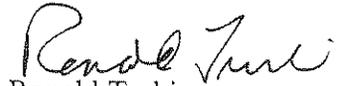
At a meeting held on January 28, 2013, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Williamstown voted unanimous support for Mt. Greylock Regional High School's application for acceptance into the building program. We understand that the first step of such acceptance would result in a feasibility study of the present facility. Such a study would help inform us about the condition of the school building and options moving forward. This is information which will help us make important decisions so that we can continue to provide for the education of our children.

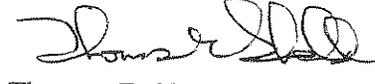
We are extremely hopeful that Mt. Greylock's application will be accepted by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Sincerely,


David A. Rempell, Chairman


Jane B. Allen, Vice Chairman


Ronald Turbin


Thomas E. Sheldon


Tom Costley