

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**January 26, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Jane B. Allen, Chairman, David A. Rempell, Richard C. Steege, Tom Costley, Ronald Turbin

**Others Present:** Lisa DeMayo, Alix and David Cabral, Kyle Johnson, Brian O'Grady, Robert McCarthy, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** None
2. **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** January 12, 2009 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the January 12, 2009 minutes. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried with one abstention by Mr. Turbin.

3. **PETITIONER'S REQUEST:** None

4. **ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**

A. Selectmen Appointments –

Municipal Scholarship Committee (M Dailey) – Mr. Rempell moved to appoint Margaret Dailey to a three-year term, expiring June 30, 2012, on the Municipal Scholarship Committee. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Agricultural Commission (L. DeMayo) – Mr. Rempell moved to appoint Lisa DeMayo to a two-year term, expiring June 30, 2011, on the Agricultural Commission. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. DeMayo was sworn in by Ms. Poirot.

B. Berkshire Humane Society Race (A. Cabral) – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the event scheduled for Saturday, May 9, beginning at 10 a.m. along Route 2, Spring Street, Walden Street, the Knolls, the Clark Art Institute and ending on Spring Street. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Boston Post Cane – Sophie Prejsnar (B O'Grady). Mr. O'Grady gave a history of the Boston Post Cane and passed around both the cane and the plaque listing names of previous honorees. He also asked that Chairman Allen sign a certificate of recognition for a new honoree, 105 year old Sophie Prejsnar, who will receive recognition as the eldest resident of the Town of Williamstown on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Costley moved Chairman Allen sign the certificate for Ms. Prejsnar. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Blair Lot (R. McCarthy) – Tree Warden and Forestry Commissioner Robert McCarthy spoke about the 235 acres and argued why it would be in the town's best interest not to sell the land to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The Select Board was approached by Peter Milanesi, a representative of Mass Fisheries and Wildlife, in October inquiring on behalf of the state which would like to purchase the Blair Lot and add it to its abutting Green River Wildlife Management area. Mr.

McCarthy argued against selling the land, saying the town could protect the land as well as the state could. He said the site has a management plan and he predicted about \$20,000 in profits from a section now being considered for tree thinning. He said the property would provide future income for the town. Mr. McCarthy also said the site might be used as a future wind-power resource as technology becomes more efficient. Ms. Allen said an e-mail was sent to town board asking for their input and we received only one response from Planning Board member Pat Dunlavey who sent a review of possible wind uses. Mr. McCarthy said if the town does sell the land to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Board might consider obtaining an easement or conservation restriction to maintain rights to wind-power development and timber harvesting.

Mr. Turbin said he would like more information before making a decision. Mr. Costley said he had planned to vote in favor of the sale but after hearing from Mr. McCarthy he has changed his mind. Mr. Steege and Ms. Allen agreed that it would be best to bring the issue before the voters in a warrant for the May Town Meeting. Mr. Turbin moved to forward purchase of Blair Lot by the Division of Wildlife and Fisheries to be a warrant article. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**E.** Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources – Agricultural Preservation Restriction Interest – Chairman Allen read a letter from the Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources stating that it is considering acquiring an interest in approximately 110 acres of land for inclusion in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program in Williamstown (Assessor’s map #124, Lot 3, Map 206, Lots 23 & 3 – off Green River and Blair Roads) pursuant to MGL Chapter 7, Section 40I. No other action was taken.

5. **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:** See attached.
6. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Turbin, who was designated to vote for the Board of Selectmen at the MMA Conference, read the list of the business meeting agenda of votes taken.
7. **ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin  
Secretary

RT/kp