

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
July 27, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Present: Ronald Turbin, Vice Chairman, David Rempell, Thomas Sheldon

Absent: Jane Allen, Tom Costley

Others Present: Jill Strawbridge, Tom Ennis, Andy Hogeland, Joyce and Paul Harsch, Kathy Poirot

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Turbin announced that there is one more "Sundays at Six" event on August 2. He also noted that the Berkshire County Metropolitan Planning Organization announced that they put in projects for the Federal Surplus Money and two of the seven projects submitted are in Williamstown. Mr. Turbin also congratulated Michelle Koelle, owner of Harvest Moon, for winning first place in the annual Wing Fling and first place for best ribs in the People's Choice category.

Mr. Rempell added congratulations to John Benzinger and other Cal Ripken coaches for hosting the under twelve year-old teams at their renovated field last weekend.

2. **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** July 13, 2009 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the July 13, 2009 minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. Second Annual Williamstown Community Chest 5K Fun Run – Jill Strawbridge – Mr. Rempell enthusiastically approved the route for the Williamstown Community Chest Fun Run on Saturday, September 26. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Green Communities Application – Mr. Ennis, representing the Williamstown COOL Committee said the COOL Committee wishes to apply to the Green Communities Grant Program for planning assistance in furthering its commitment in seeking to be a greener community. Mr. Ennis distributed a summary of requirements for the town to qualify as a green community and said he believes the Town meets the eligibility requirements. He asked that the Board vote to sign a letter of commitment to meet the five Green Community criteria summarized in the letter within one year. The five criteria are 1) As-of-right siting of renewable or alternative energy facilities, 2) Expedited application and permitting process for energy facilities, 3) Municipal energy use baseline inventory and reduction plan, 4) Fuel-efficient vehicle purchasing policy, and 5) Requiring residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize life-cycle resources and energy costs. Mr. Rempell moved to vote that the Vice Chairman sign the letter of intent. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. High School Building Update – Mr. Hogeland, a member of Mount Greylock Regional School District Building Committee distributed a status report of the Committee's projects as of July 27, 2009. He said the school district is seeking funding from the state School Building Authority to replace the ceilings in both

locker rooms. The District's insurance will only cover costs for damages for the actual collapsed ceiling in the girl's locker room. The total bill is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. He said the boiler and heating systems need to be replaced with one of the three boilers determined beyond repair. In addition, a July 2009 engineering evaluation indicated that the roof of the school cannot support solar panels except in two small areas. The Committee continues to explore feasibility and financing options for solar panels on a ground-based array, possibly in the parking lot.

- D. Tourist Trolley Proposal (Joyce Harsch)** – Mr. Turbin stated that at their July 13 Selectmen meeting, the trolley proposal was discussed by the Board but Mr. and Ms. Harsch did not arrive in time to make their presentation. Ms. Harsch gave a power point presentation and requested that selectmen support her effort to apply for a federal grant under the umbrella of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority for four battery powered tourist trolleys. Ms. Harsch said she strongly believes the trolleys will be beneficial both environmentally and economically providing tourists and residents alike with local transportation that emits no greenhouse gases. She said she has been in contact with BRTA administrator Gary Shepard who supports this initiative. Ms. Harsch said she would like to see the trolleys themed like the “Eph Experience”, a trolley transformed into a purple cow. Ms. Harsch said she would be writing the Williamstown component of a much larger grant that would fall under the operations of the BRTA. Ms. Harsch said since Williamstown doesn't have the ability to run a transit system, an endorsement by the Board would provide the BRTA with the political support for them to get their grant and for Williamstown to get what they want. Mr. Rempell said there is no doubt that the benefits are good but he said he was not sure what the selectmen are endorsing. The selectmen expressed concern about potential costs to the town and a commitment that the BRTA would be responsible for the trolleys' operation. Ms. Harsch said she would bring these questions to Mr. Shepard. Selectmen requested that Ms. Harsch ask Mr. Shepard to attend the next selectmen meeting on August 10 and encouraged Ms. Harsch to continue with the grant.
- E. Cable Mills Preservation Restriction** – the preservation restriction requires the facades of the Cable Mills buildings be maintained to preserve their 19th Century appearance. Mr. Rempell moved to execute the preservation restriction and sign the document. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- F. House of Local History Request for Botsford Funds** – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the request from the House of Local History for their share of Botsford Fund interest in the amount of \$1059.68. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- G. Appointment of Election Workers for 2009/2010** – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the names on the list provided by Town Clerk Mary Kennedy. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- H. Confirmation of Appointment to Conservation Commission** – Mr. Sheldon moved to confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Hank Art to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: None

5. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Rempell reminded the Board of a meeting on Storm-water Management Regulations presented by Town Counsel at the Harper Center on August 3, 2009 at 7 p.m.
6. **ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, August 10, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon
Secretary

TES/kp