

**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**RETREAT**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014**

**9:00 AM, WILLIAMS INN**

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

NOV 24 2014

**AGENDA**

TOWN CLERK

**I. Economic Development**

3:45 pm

- A. Update by Selectmen working on Economic Development.**
- B. Membership of Economic Development Committee.**

**II. Process for selection of Town Flag.**

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Retreat – Williams Inn**  
**December 1, 2014**  
**9:00 AM**

**Present:** Ron Turbin, Tom Sheldon, Andy Hogeland, Hugh Daley, Jane Patton and Peter Fohlin  
**Also Present:** Steve Dravis

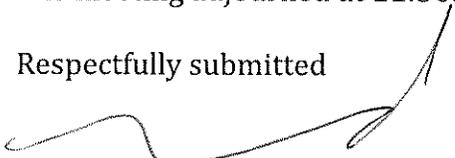
Flag Contest. The town had received five submissions for the flag contest, three of which were from elementary school students. Mr. Sheldon initiated a discussion on taking a different approach to the flag contest than had been decided in the most recent Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Sheldon reported he had heard there were some negative implications in having elementary school aged children be part of a contest and that it might be better to change to an approach where the other two artists would collaborate on a design. Mr. Turbin had similar comments. Mr. Hogeland thought it might be better to simply end the contest if there was not a significant showing of support for any of the five submitted designs and that a collaboration approach, while possibly positive, might lead us into further rounds of approvals and changes on a project that did not seem to have widespread interest. Ms Patton and Mr. Daley favored proceeding with the effort on a collaborative design. After additional discussion, the board decided 4-1 to ask Mr. Sheldon to arrange for the two artists to begin a joint effort for flag design. Mr. Fohlin will prepare certificates of appreciation for the elementary school artists.

Economic Development Planning Committee. The Board discussed approximately 35 possible candidates for serving on an Economic Development Planning Committee. The Committee would be requested to develop an economic development plan for the town, with the planning process anticipated to take 6-12 months, meeting perhaps twice per month. Part of the Committee's work would be to ensure broad outreach and engagement throughout the community. After an extended discussion, the Selectmen agreed to a list of prospective candidates and assigned each Selectman to contact designated candidates to see if they would be willing to serve on the Committee, with the goal of getting responses by Monday December 8, 2014.

The economic development discussion also brought up the issue of the relative roles to be played by DestinationWilliamstown, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Town, including what would be the best way to market the town and to develop a more visitor-friendly town website. The Selectmen agreed this was an important topic but deferred further discussion until it could be scheduled for a subsequent meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted

  
Andy Hogeland