

WEDC September 20, 2013
Approved Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bruce Breton, Mike Oldenburg, Al Letizio, Paul Gosselin, Sy Wrenn, Ralph Valentine, Jim Coburn, Bev Donovan, Laura Scott

Meeting opened at 7:35am

Minutes – August 9, 2013. Motion to approve by Bruce Breton, 2nd by Mike Oldenburg , Paul Gosselin abstained

Minutes – September 13, 2013 minutes tabled until next meeting.

Liason Reports:

Planning Board - Sy Wrenn, NBD Subcommittee is looking to suggest rezoning some parcels along route 28 to Commercial A, also looking at some multi-zone issues. There was discussion and concern regarding the makeup of the subcommittee (only 2 members on the subcommittee and both are planning board members), and how that may impact either positively or negatively on the process and outcomes. Sy said that he and Vanessa have worked hard to reach consensus and have come to agreement on most issues. Members wanted to make sure that if there was not agreement by both parties that it was made clear to the Planning Board. Paul suggested that Sy bring forward the concern about the time of day the committee is meeting since most members of the public are working and cannot attend. The conversation was regarding the corner of Mammoth and Route 111 being looked at by the Subcommittee and Sy stated that they are not looking at that section of Town yet.

Land Use Subcommittee: The committee has not met, but Bev will talk with Jim Coburn about the Aquifer Protection Subcommittee to see if there is a need to meet. Laura had sent out information after the last Aquifer Subcommittee meeting to WEDC so members have the information.

Selectman: Al will be at Planning Board Oct 2nd for his own property site plans, being stalled due to Route 93 project. He is looking for an extension of his project approval due to the delay. Al mentioned that 93 is only widening to 3 lanes instead of 4 due to Windham water issues, especially chloride. Laura stated that the State and towns are working on minimizing salt on town and state roads and that there is educational outreach to private land owners about reducing salt use as well.

Aquifer Subcommittee: The Planning Board has charged the subcommittee with reviewing the current Aquifer Protection Ordinance. The subcommittee is looking to add wellhead protections into the ordinance. If all wellheads are in “the district”, the whole town would be in the district. Tier 1 wells are community water systems. All existing and new DES approved Tier 1 wells would be included in new ordinance. Since the public is not notified by DES when new wells are approved, there is an issue in knowing when the district changes. Tier 2 wells are public well systems (such as around Canobie Lake). DES doesn't support Tier 1 wells in this type of ordinance because of the lack of science to support regulating; each Tier 1 well is different. This can potentially affect the economic development of parcels. The Subcommittee is also looking at potentially doubling lot size requirements for projects within the Aquifer Protection District. Ralph questioned why we need more regulation when there are numerous NH DES regulations for wells. Bruce stated that most of Windham's wells are bedrock wells

that draw from veins, not bodies of water. Ralph reviewed portions of the minutes of the Aquifer subcommittee to highlight some of the issues. Bruce questioned the wisdom of over-regulation when the town needs to address upcoming school and town needs. The potential of this over-regulation, on commercial properties, is to minimize economic development. Bruce motioned, Al seconded (Sy abstained) that the Chariman (Ralph) present a letter to the Aquifer Subcommittee at the meeting on October 1st, stating that we support the current Aquifer Protection ordinance and current DES regulations about wellheads to protect our groundwater resources. WEDC does not support the inclusion of well heads, doubling the lot size into the Aquifer Protection ordinance, and decreasing the amount of impervious from 50% to 30% as it does not enhance the service to the residents in the water quality, and may inhibit economic vitality.

Communications: Al stated that information press releases are being sent out weekly through our website, local papers, Windham Patch, etc., letting the public know about the work of the WEDC.

Infrastructure: Ralph presented at school board meeting regarding the water study. He will present at Selectmen's meeting on October 7th. Laura mentioned April from the Union Leader wrote an article about the potential water study. Other papers are also considering articles.

Motion by Bruce, 2nd by Paul to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at approximately 9:10am

Submitted in Draft by Bev Donovan