

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Marilyn C. Gould
Second Selectman

Alice L. Ayers

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING

January 2, 2007

MINUTES

- Present: William F. Brennan, Marilyn C. Gould, Alice L. Ayers, Richard F. Creeth, Harold E. Clark
- Others: Sarah Taffel, Director, Human Resources, Labor Relations & Administrative Services; Tom Thurkettle, Director of Public Works; Joe Dolan, Chief Financial Officer
- Guests: Chris Collins, Paul Collins, Gary Lui, Xiauli Huo, Sean Duff, Mike Warner, Luke Tiller, Faye Stilley, Barbara Stilley, Cora Martin, AJ Lucas, Brian Lilly, Chris McDonagh, residents; Brian Shea, The Bulletin; Jeremy Soulliere, Wilton Villager

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. Consent Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Creeth and carried 5-0 to approve the consent agenda as amended:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – December 18, 2006*
- Board of Selectmen's Executive Meeting – December 18, 2006

* page 3, add to the end of the first paragraph – “He added that the proposal includes an assumption that the town will forego the rental income for the yellow house.”

Tax Refunds

- Motor vehicle refunds as outlined in the Tax Collector's memorandum dated December 29, 2006.

Gifts

- Two stone planters and two stone pineapples for Town Hall from Timothy Lynch, President of Kenneth Lynch & Sons.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Review of the Dog Park Committee's report on the Wolfpit Road proposed site.

Ms. Ayers gave a summary on the background of the project. She distributed a report titled "Report on Site Walk of Wolfpit Road Property for Proposed Dog Park", dated January 2, 2007. (attached)

Ms. Ayers reviewed the report and concluded that those involved in the site walk reconfirmed the ad-hoc committee's rejection of the site. She explained that although the site is level and the location is picturesque, there are four main areas of concern.

Isolation of the site

- Access is restricted
- Bridge is in need of repair for safety reasons
- Parcel not fully visible from Wolfpit Road or the commuter parking lot
- Call for help may not be heard because of traffic noise
- Area too isolated for comfortable use
- Mowing and trash removal problematic

Traffic

- Driveway located close to major intersection making entrance and egress difficult
- Dog parks heaviest use during rush hour
- Police report that the area is one of the most dangerous intersections in town

Park Layout

- Using the outline of the area presented at the Selectmen's meeting and taking topography into account, the park would be less than one acre
- If the boundary lines were repositioned, less town owned land would be used
- Layout of proposed area is oddly shaped and unrealistically placed

Input From WOOF Members

- WOOF members feel the location is too remote and too dangerous

Ms. Ayers reported that the six individuals involved in the site walk voted unanimously that the site is not appropriate for a dog park. She added that Allen's Meadows west is the one site that meets the criteria.

Ms. Ayers stated that Wilton owns 1,289 acres of park land and that a dog park would only require one acre which is 1/10 of 1% of town owned park land. She added that a one acre dog park requires 20% less land than one soccer field.

Mr. Brennan reviewed a site off School Road across from Comstock Community Center but concluded that it would not be appropriate for a dog park because of parking issues, land topography and the land clearing that would be required.

Ms. Gould stated that she continues to believe that the best sites would be along the railroad track on Schenck's Island or at Allen's Meadows. She identified a potential site near the Children's Center parking lot at the Comstock facility. Ms. Gould explained that the area would be easy to convert into a dog park, is cost effective, consists of town owned land and has no close neighbors.

Ms. Ayers agreed to review the site. Mr. Brennan suggested that school personnel be contacted for their thoughts or potential future plans for the land.

2. Briefing on the Wilton Center lighting and concrete curb project.

Mr. Brennan distributed and reviewed an outline of the project (attached) and referred to an aerial map of Wilton Center.

Mr. Creeth asked if the cost would be bonded and for an estimate of operating costs. Mr. Brennan replied that the project cost would be bonded and that the operating costs would be approximately \$600 per month.

Ms. Gould suggested that funds from the ending fund balance be used to pay for the project rather than bonding. Mr. Brennan explained that he will be discussing the project with the Board of Finance.

Mr. Brennan reported that a sample light fixture will be set up near the town green in the near future.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Gould, seconded by Hal Clark and unanimously carried to approve a blanket authorization to solicit and accept donations for the Wilton Center lighting project.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Gould, seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried to submit a §8-24 to Planning and Zoning for the Wilton Center lighting project.

3. Consideration of appointing Harriet Taylor to the Historic District and Historic Property Commission, alternate. Said term to expire December 1, 2009.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to appoint Harriet Taylor to the Historic District and Historic Property Commission, alternate. Said term to expire December 1, 2009.

4. Consideration of accepting the resignation of David Sherwood from the Area Nine Cable Council.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of David Sherwood from the Area Nine Cable Council.

5. Consideration of accepting the resignation of Marilyn C. Gould from the Board of Selectmen effective January 5, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Gould abstained) to accept, with much regret and deep appreciation for her years of service, the resignation of Marilyn C. Gould from the Board of Selectmen effective January 5, 2007.

6. Consideration of appointing Marilyn C. Gould to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kevin Ward effective January 8, 2007. Said term to expire November 6, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and carried 4-0-1 (Ms. Gould abstained) to appoint Marilyn C. Gould to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kevin Ward effective January 8, 2007. Said term to expire November 6, 2007.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Gould and unanimously carried to add two items to the agenda pertaining to renaming the Middlebrook multi-purpose soccer field to the Nick Madaras Field and the nomination of Susan Bruschi to fill the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Brennan explained that the Wilton Soccer Association, the Soccer Boosters and Wilton High School schools has requested renaming the Middlebrook multi-purpose soccer field to the Nick Madaras Field. He stated that the Parks and Recreation unanimously supports request.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Gould and unanimously carried to rename the Middlebrook multi-purpose soccer field to the Nick Madaras Field.

Mr. Brennan announced that the Republican Town Committee has nominated Susan Bruschi to fill the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen. He suggested the nomination be voted on at the January 16th Selectmen's meeting.

C. Public Comment

Mr. Paul Collins stated that his residence is very close to the previously proposed dog park on Wolfpit Road. He voiced his appreciation for the work done by the ad hoc Dog Park Committee and the Selectmen.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

Elderly Tax Relief Committee

The membership will be finalized in the near future. Mr. Brennan offered to share his letter to the committee explaining the project.

Pension Trustees

A meeting with the Pension Trustees and the Investment Committee was scheduled for January 11th at 7:30.

2. Selectman's Report

Athletic Fields Complex Committee

The committee will be meeting on January 4. Mr. Clark reported that the committee will be requesting that the Council on Public Facilities get involved in the project.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Creeth and unanimously carried to adjourn to executive session at 9:00 pm.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to approve the Fire Commission's recommendation to include the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief in the Fire Department's retiree health insurance benefit.

E. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lund
Recording Secretary