

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

November 6, 2006

MINUTES

- Present: William F. Brennan, Alice L. Ayers, Richard F. Creeth, Harold E. Clark (Marilyn C. Gould notified intended absence)
- Others: Bob Crosby, Police Captain; Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs;
- Guests: David Hapke, Kimberley Young, Nicholas Lee, Patrice Gillespie, Conservation Commission; Louise Herot, Dan Mahony, Mike Kaelin, Jim Saxe, David Waters, Selectmen's Representative to Library Board of Trustees; Carol Becker, Kathy Welling, Kathy Leeds, Wilton Library; Diane Gorman, Cora Martin, Lorna Lyle, WOOD; David Wallace, Chris Giovino, Parks and Recreation Commission; Faye Stilley, Barbara Stilley, residents; Brain Shea, The Bulletin; Jeremy Soulliere, The Villager

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

A. Consent Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Creeth, seconded by Ms. Ayers and carried 3-0-1 (Mr. Clark abstained) to approve the consent agenda:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – October 16, 2006
- Board of Selectmen's Executive Meeting – October 16, 2006

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle tax refunds as outlined in the Tax Collector's memorandum both dated October 24, 2006.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Discussion of responses from Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission pertaining to the Dog Park.

Mr. Brennan reminded the Selectmen that at the June 27th public information session a number of questions/issues were raised. He explained that the questions/issues were referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission on July 7. Mr. Brennan commented that both commissions have now responded.

Mr. Brennan summarized each Commission's response as follows:

Conservation Commission:

- Proposed site at Allen's Meadows too close to grassland habitat.
- Suggested the east side of Route 7 be reviewed as a possible site for the dog park (Mr. Brennan commented that the site will be used for the next three years as a storage area for the Route 7 widening project).
- Supported no further uses for Allen's Meadows.

Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Supported having Conway School develop an Allen's Meadows park plan which would include a potential dog park.
- Concerned that a dog park could become an eyesore.
- Questioned if the dog park would be self sustaining.

Ms. Ayers commented that since the Conway School has been engaged to develop a park plan, which would include public charettes, she questioned if the decision should be delayed until the study has been completed.

Mr. Clark stated that there is public interest for a dog park but that an alternate site may need to be identified.

Mr. Brennan suggested that the Conservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission meet to identify if possible an alternate location at Allen's Meadows for a dog park. Mr. Hapke and Mr. Giovino agreed to set up a joint meeting.

Mr. Hapke expressed interest in reviewing the east side Route 7 as a possible location. Ms. Ayers stated that the dog park committee felt strongly that the dog park should be on town owned land. She added that the east side would not be available for a number of years. Ms. Ayers suggested that the Commissions review the dog park site criteria which were included in the final report.

Mr. Brennan offered to supply the Commissions with aerial shoots of Allen's Meadows. He asked that the Commissions report back to the Selectmen by December 4.

2. Report from Selectmen Library Representatives.

Mr. Saxe welcomed the new Selectmen Representatives to the Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Herot referred to the new financial reporting format and stated that with the exception of supply costs, there are no concerns with the first quarter results.

Mr. Clark asked about the HVAC usage now that the construction is complete. Ms. Leeds replied that the lower heating oil costs will help and that the system is working well.

Mr. Creeth thanked the Library for the new financial reporting format and mentioned that variances less than 1% do not need explanations.

Mr. Brennan asked about fundraising plans. Ms. Herot replied that the fundraising chairman is very comfortable with the planned activities. Mr. Saxe added that the Library will not be competing with itself as the capital campaign is now complete.

Mr. Brennan asked about the pledges yet to be collected for the construction project. Ms. Becker responded that only \$600,000 of pledges is left to be collected.

3. Consideration of approving a lease of two parcels of land to Tilcon Connecticut for the purpose of storing construction equipment for the Route 7 widening project as outlined in the agreement.

Mr. Brennan explained that the parcel is located at the School Road and Route 7 intersection. He noted that Town Counsel drafted the lease which has been signed by Tilcon Connecticut.

4. Consideration of approving a resolution authorizing First Selectman William F. Brennan, on behalf of the Town of Wilton, to enter into agreements and contracts and execute documents relating to the Ambler Farm STEAP grant with the State of Connecticut.

5. Consideration of approving a resolution authorizing First Selectman William F. Brennan, on behalf of the Town of Wilton, to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for FY2006 Homeland Security Grant funding.

Mr. Brennan stated the grant is for \$16,782.00

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Creeth and carried 4-0 to authorize First Selectman William F. Brennan, on behalf of the Town of Wilton, to sign documents as outlined in agenda items 3, 4 and 5.

6. Consideration of approving the sale of the old Animal Control vehicle to Ralph Nathanson for \$500.00.

Captain Crosby explained that Mr. Nathanson offered to buy the vehicle for \$500.00. He added that Mr. Nathanson stripped the vehicle of town equipment which saved the department \$200.00. Captain Crosby added that the vehicle is in poor condition.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and carried 4-0 to approve the sale of the old Animal Control vehicle to Ralph Nathanson for \$500.00.

Mr. Brennan mentioned that a policy is being written to establish a procedure for the disposal of Town owned vehicles or other items.

7. Consideration of accepting the resignation of Kevin Ward from the Planning and Zoning Commission effective December 20, 2006.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers to accept, with grateful thanks for his years of involvement in town affairs, the resignation of Kevin Ward from the Planning and Zoning Commission effective December 20, 2006.

8. Consideration of accepting the resignation of Elizabeth Rudolph from the Council on Public Facilities.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers to accept, with grateful thanks for her years of involvement in town affairs, the resignation of Elizabeth Rudolph from the Council on Public Facilities.

C. Public Comment

No public comment.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

State of the Town Report

The State of the Town Report was taped on October 27 and will be aired the week of November 13 at 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on channel 79.

Code of Ethics

Mr. Creeth and Mr. Clark have agreed to draft a charge for the independent ethics review committee. The draft will be reviewed at the Selectmen's meeting on November 20.

There are 12 candidates for the 5 member review committee. Once the 5 members have been selected, they will review Wilton's current code of ethics, the Council on Ethics recommendations and Selectmen suggestions. The committee will then present its proposed amendments to the Selectmen. Prior

to any vote, the Board of Selectmen will hold a public information meeting to obtain citizen comments on the proposed new code on ethics.

Public Information Session – Route 7 Construction Project

All residents are encouraged to attend a DOT public information session on the Route 7 Construction Project. The meeting is scheduled for November 21 at 7:30pm in the Cider Mill cafeteria.

CL&P Transmission Project

The 345kv transmission line was energized in October. The roadway will be repaved by mid-November.

Chairman, Council on Public Facilities

David Stern has been appointed Chairman of the Council on Public Facilities.

2. Selectman's Report

No report.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded Ms. Ayers and carried 4-0 to adjourn to executive session at 8:30 pm.

First Selectman Brennan reconvened to open session at 9:05 pm.

E. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Clark and carried 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lund
Recording Secretary