

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

October 4, 2006

MINUTES

- Present: William F. Brennan, Marilyn C. Gould, Alice L. Ayers, Richard F. Creeth, Harold E. Clark
- Others: Peggy Reeves, Tina Gardner, Registrars; Pat Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Sarah Taffel, Director, Human Resources, Labor Relations & Administrative Services
- Guests: George Ciaccio, Linda Swayze, Buck Griswold, Bob Garland, Ned Greene, Frank Mabley, Judy Mabley, Hal Parmelee, Joan Starr, Larry Kluetsel, Wilton Commons; Charlie Flynn, Bruce Beebe, Nancy Faesy, Teresa Mucci, David Lynch, George Quigley, Bob Russell, Wilton Land Trust; Kate Throckmorton, Naomi Dempsey, Kimberley Young, Kristen Begor, Nicholas Lee, Patrice Gillespie, David Hapke, Conservation Commission; Jeremy Soulliere, Wilton Villager; Brian Shea, Wilton Bulletin

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

A. Consent Agenda

Mr. Brennan withdrew Mary Goodspeed (\$174.67) from the tax refund list.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Gould, seconded by Mr. Creeth and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as amended:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting – September 18, 2006\*

\* page 2, item 1, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should read "She commented that the usage is comparable with 20-30 students in the afternoons and 200-350 students on special event weekend nights."

### Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle tax refunds as outlined in the Tax Collector's memoranda both dated September 26, 2006.

## B. Discussion and/or Action

### 1. Update on Wilton Commons by George Ciaccio.

Mr. Ciaccio outlined the challenges Wilton Commons has faced over the last six years including:

- creating a Wilton Commons Board
- demonstrating a need for affordable assisted living housing in Wilton
- negotiating a long term lease with the Town for land on the Dana Property
- receiving approval of the lease by the Board of Selectmen
- receiving approval of the lease by the town via a special town meeting and vote
- securing a developer and architect
- obtaining non-profit status.

Mr. Ciaccio stated that failure was never an option when faced with the challenges.

Mr. Ciaccio explained that the current challenge is to raise \$15 million for the building project, which includes \$2.0 million of privately raised funds. He commented that the capital campaign has begun and the goal is to raise \$1.0 million before the end of the year.

Mr. Ciaccio reported that the Wilton Commons Board has retained a campaign consultant and that brochures and pledge cards have been printed. He noted that the website is almost ready. In addition, a financial accounting and reporting system is in place.

Ms. Swayze and Mr. Griswold outlined their fundraising experience and reviewed the campaign strategy for raising the \$2.0 million. Mr. Brennan expressed his confidence in Ms. Swayze's and Mr. Griswold's ability to raise the funds.

Mr. Kluetsel, the developer for Wilton Commons, distributed an outline of the development budget (attached). Mr. Brennan asked about contingency funds. Mr. Kluetsel replied that 7.5% of contingency funds are in the budget and commented that the building project budget is based on a similar recent project.

Ms. Gould asked about the likelihood of receiving the grants since Wilton is a small, affluent community. Mr. Kluetsel stated that the State is receptive to awarding grants to towns similar to Wilton. Mr. Brennan added that the State's financial position is healthy and therefore more grants are coming from the State.

Mr. Brennan thanked the Wilton Commons Board for the update and wished the Board continued success.

2. Presentation of voting technology by Peggy Reeves and Tina Gardner.

Mr. Brennan reported that Wilton is one of the 25 towns selected to use the new voter machines for this November's election. He stated that the Town has received a lot of support and training from the State on the equipment.

Ms. Reeves explained that although the machines are new in Connecticut, they have been used in other New England states for a number of years. She commented that the machines are the same ones they have used for counting absentee ballots since the 1994 presidential election.

Ms. Reeves stated that the State has also mandated that a phone system be in place for disabled voters. She explained that the individual would use the phone to cast their vote. Once the vote is cast and approved by the individual, a fax would be received and once again verified by the individual. Then the faxed vote would be hand counted by the Voting Official.

Ms. Gardner reviewed the security procedures for the voting machines.

Ms. Reeves stated that each district will have one privacy booth for every 250 registered voters and one optical voting machine. Ms. Gould voiced her concern that there could be a long line at the optical voting machine for scanning the votes. Ms. Reeves explained that the scanning process is very fast.

Mr. Brennan reported that the machines, privacy booths and phone voting systems are funded entirely by the federal government.

3. Discussion from Land Trust representatives on Schenck's Island and vote on resolution previously agreed to verbally.

Mr. Brennan explained that last Spring he received a call from Mr. Flynn pertaining to the return of invasive species on Schenck's Island. At that time Mr. Flynn prepared a statement which Mr. Brennan then read to the Selectmen individually, all of whom agreed with the statement. Mr. Brennan commented that the vote is to memorialize the verbal agreement of the statement.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to approval the resolution as read (attached).

Mr. Flynn distributed a photo of Schenck's Island in 1959 and one from 2003. He noted the difference between the two photos and expressed Land Trust's interest in restoring the land. Mr. Flynn explained that with the approved resolution, it will be easier to get volunteers/organizations to work on the restoration project.

4. Discussion on the Retirement Plan governance.

Ms. Taffel referred to a handout she prepared outlining the roles and functions of the Selectmen in the governance of the retirement plan.

Ms. Taffel explained that there are two key documents that regulate the retirement plan. The Plan Document outlines how the plan operates. The Trust Agreement is an agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the Trustees and addresses the asset management of the plan. Ms. Taffel stated that shifting responsibilities from the Board of Selectmen to the Trustees could be accomplished by passing a resolution rather than changing the Trust Agreement.

Mr. Brennan suggested, and the Selectmen agreed, to discuss the governance of the plan at the Trustee meeting scheduled for October 5.

5. Consideration of appointing Daniel Mahony as a Selectmen's Representative to the Library Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Colleen Lundwall. Said term to expire June 30, 2007.

Ms. Ayers commented that Mr. Mahony has experience working with 501c-3 organizations, understands financial management and would be a very good replacement for Ms. Lundwall.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Ms. Ayers and unanimously carried to appoint Daniel Mahony as a Selectmen's Representative to the Library Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Colleen Lundwall. Said term to expire June 30, 2007.

C. Public Comment

No public comment.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

Route 7 Widening Project

Tree cutting along the roadway has begun. Weekly meetings with Town Officials, DOT staff and Tilcon representatives are taking place. Town Officials and DEP were very much involved in the tree cutting procedure in order to save as many trees as possible. Upon completion of the project, the roadway will be landscaped. Ms. Gould commented that since Wilton was mainly farm land, many of the trees are fairly young.

Weekly press releases and website updates will be prepared to communicate the progress of the project to the public.

Kent Road Closure

CL & P will be energizing the new transmission line on October 12. Metro North has expressed concern that the new lines may interfere with the current railroad crossing signals. For this reason, Kent Road will be closed from October 11 to October 20. New signal equipment has been ordered and will be installed upon receipt.

#### Events at the Tennis Courts

Town officials have worked closely with Minks to Sinks representatives to find an alternate site for their event. The main reason for relocation is public safety as vehicular traffic has become a safety hazard in that area.

Also, due to the road widening project and required State land acquisition, less land will be available for events to be held in this area. Organizations are encouraged to seek alternate sites for future events.

#### Wilton Education Advisory Board

The Wilton Education Advisory Board has requested a Selectman to serve on the Board. This is the first time such a request has been made.

#### Nick Madaras Memorial

A number of organizations have submitted suggestions for various memorials. The suggestions have been referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

#### Emergency Preparedness Guide

The emergency preparedness guide will be on the website in the near future. It will also be offered to neighboring towns.

### 2. Selectman's Report

#### Emergency Services Day

Ms. Ayers commented on the success of Emergency Services Day. Mr. Creeth stated he also attended the event and it reassured him of the quality of Wilton's emergency personnel and procedures.

### E. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Gould and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lund  
Recording Secretary