

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Harold E. Clark
Second Selectman

Ted W. Hoffstatter

Richard J. Dubow

James A. Saxe

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

- PRESENT:** First Selectman Bill Brennan, Hal Clark, Ted Hoffstatter, Richard Dubow, James Saxe
- GUESTS:** Sandy Dennies, Bob Nemey, Sarah Taffel, Tina Gardner, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Kathy Leeds, Susan Taylor, Ann Duffy and other Library Trustees, Neil Gluckin, James Barker and other Friends of Ambler Farm, Richard Creeth, Jan Andras
- OTHERS:** Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Alissa Smith (The Daily Wilton), Matt Coyne (Villager)

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

A. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Mr. Dubow, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes – 12/15/11
- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes – 01/03/12

Gifts

- \$200 from Wayne Gura and Anne Djupedal to the Fire Department Gift Fund

This gift to the Fire Department is very much appreciated.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Wilton Voter Redistricting Presentation - Registrars

Registrars Tina Gardner and Carole Young-Kleinfeld gave a presentation on the proposed re-districting that is Federal and State mandated every ten years, following the Census, to equalize representation of voters around the state and the nation. Wilton is part of the 4th Congressional District, the 25th State Senate District, and is still divided into two House Districts – the 125th and 143rd. The in-town district lines have been changed as referenced on the map displayed tonight. The Registrars goals are to make sure that: 1) every voter knows where they are to vote; 2) voters are evenly distributed among the three polling places; and 3) the three polling places are adequate to serve the voters.

The polling places for the 143rd District would be at the high school and at Middlebrook School. For the upcoming Republican Primary, they propose that the 125th District vote at Miller Driscoll School, and then long-term, that polling place will be changed to the Cider Mill School main gym. Schools will be open on the date of the Primary so voting at Cider Mill would necessitate voters accessing the building through hallways with students.

After a discussion, it was felt that it would be less confusing to voters if the 125th polling place was set at Cider Mill before the Primary. The Registrars will go back to discuss this with schools personnel and come back to the Board of Selectmen on 2/5/12.

2. Wilton Library – Trustees Report

Ms. Ann Duffy, Library Trustee presented the Second Quarter Financials (attached). Nothing has changed from the first quarter. There is a \$61,000 deficit projected in operating funds, due to a "27th Payroll" falling within the fiscal year. They plan to make up the shortfall with reserves held from previous years. The recent audit received a good audit opinion and praise for the financial management. They have received 35 interested candidates for the position of Director and plan to make an offer sometime in April of this year. A committee is working on the Public-Private Partnership agreement and the Strategic Plan has been finalized. Once the Strategic Plan is presented to the entire Trustees Board next week, copies will be sent to the Selectmen. The Cornerstone Fund, a formal endowment fund, has now been established with approximately 15 benefactors. This is something Ms. Leeds is excited to have in place before she leaves her position as Director.

3. Friends of Ambler Farm Presentation – Capital Project, etc.

Mr. Neil Glucken, President, Friends of Ambler Farm, believes that funding for the completion of the farmhouse is an investment and a long-term positive payoff for the community. Membership has increased from 189 to 305 this year, and registration in programs is very strong. The farmhouse is the last major structure on the farm for rehab, estimated at \$1.9 million. Mr. James Barker then went through the slide presentation (attached).

Mr. Brennan reminded that last year, the Town was not able to provide the funding for capital at Ambler Farm, which gave the Friends another year to raise funds for the project. How much was raised? Ms. Jean Robertson, who heads up fundraising for Ambler, answered that they received a \$50,000 grant from the Raymond Ambler Trust and they are trying to build on the increased membership. Mr. Clark asked about the \$500,000 funding plan. Mr. Glucken assured that they would be happy to share their fundraising plans, pointing out that they can get further if they can talk about this as being a "shared" project with the Town. Mr. Brennan advised that the Town is currently faced with vetting proposed bonded capital in the amount of \$5.4 million, in another tough budget year. Mr. Brennan suggested looking at alternatives, such as \$125,000 over four years, rather than \$250,000 over two years. After further discussion, Mr. Glucken agreed to formalize the Ambler Farm fundraising plan and come back to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Saxe suggested looking at any aspects of the project that could be deferred or perhaps are not essential.

4. Resolution – Support of SWRPA Application for Grant Funding

Mr. Bob Nerney advised that SWRPA is asking member towns for assistance in supporting a grant application they are filing with the CT OPM (Office of Policy and Management) for funding of a regional aerial flyover. This could provide valuable information for Wilton at little or no cost. This resolution of support does not bind the Town to any contractual agreement. Mr. Brennan pointed out that this is a good example of regional cooperation and a joint effort for mutual benefit. Mr. Saxe moved the resolution as presented (attached). Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

5. Resolution – Webster Bank

Ms. Dennies advised that as of April 2012, our bank will require that we have ten credit cards and a demand deposit to maintain our commercial account. Webster Bank will allow us to have three cards with no minimum balance and no demand deposit. Mr. Clark moved the following – RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Wilton hereby authorizes William F. Brennan, First Selectman, to enter into a Business Card Member Agreement with Webster Bank as provided for on the Webster Bank Corporate Liability Application. Motion seconded and unanimously

6. Resolution – Assistant Town Counsel – Wilton Commons Closing

Mr. Clark moved the following – RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Wilton appoint Attorney Daniel Nagel of Cohen and Wolf, PC as Assistant Town Attorney, empowered to represent the Town in all legal matters concerning a lease agreement with Wilton Commons, Inc. and is further empowered to attend a meeting between Wilton Commons, Inc., The Mutual Housing Authority, all financing authorities and their representatives, and to sign any and all documents required to be signed by the Town in order to effectuate an agreement between Wilton Commons, Inc. and The Mutual Housing Authority. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

7. Appointments – Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Ms. Helen Whitten as an alternate to the Historic District and Historic Properties Commission. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Ms. Ann White was unable to be here for an interview earlier this evening. She will be contacted to set up another date and time.

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Donald Grunewald as a member of the Wilton Water Pollution Control Authority. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

8. Miscellaneous Other Business

CL&P: The Consumer Counsel is doing a survey, which will be completed by our PD, FD and DPW, to collect information on how CL&P responded during the power outages. Along with four other towns, the Town of Wilton has requested intervenor status with PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Agency) to request that CL&P be ordered to take action to insure that they are better prepared for storms.

Stroke Awareness: On 1/26/12, at 7:30 pm in the Brubeck Room, Dr. Claudio Petrillo of Norwalk Hospital will give a presentation on stroke awareness and prevention.

P&R Commission: The Parks & Rec Commission Operations Manual is to be reviewed by the commission annually. Mr. Brennan is sending a letter to the commission reminding them to look at fees and make recommendations to the BOS, if necessary. He is also asking them to review the status of the two turf fields and report on the expected life, maintenance costs, replacement costs, any major issues, etc.

C. Public Comment: None noted

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report

Benches: Last year, a successful program soliciting donations for teak benches resulted in six benches being installed around the Village Center, with commemorative brass plaques. This program will be resurrected in an attempt to provide benches at Merwin's Meadow.

Fuel Assistance: This year, there is a cutback in funding for the Federal heating fuel assistance program. Our social services group will be holding fund raisers to make up for this shortfall that is so very important to those who cannot afford heat.

Clean Up: To date, we have removed 1,200,000 pounds of wood chips from Merwin's Meadow with much more to be hauled away, and more

streets to pick up. Mr. Saxe suggested spreading chips along the muddy trails at Merwin's Meadow. Mr. Brennan will check into that possibility.

Merwin's Meadow: We will be dewatering the pond, removing 500 cubic yards of silt and sludge and then regrading the area, with a 75% reimbursement of cost through FEMA.

2. Selectmen Reports

Mr. Dubow: No report

Mr. Clark: No report

Mr. Hoffstatter: No report

Mr. Saxe: No report

E. Adjournment: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary

Friends of Ambler Farm

Raymond-Ambler House Rehabilitation Project Funding Request

Raymond-Ambler House Project

Agenda:

- Background
- Project Description
- Project Status
- Capital Funding Request
- Our Commitment
- Community Support

Raymond-Ambler House Project

Background:

- RA House Rehabilitation Project represents the final phase of a master plan that began in 1999 when the Town of Wilton purchased the Ambler Farm property
 - Retain an important element of Town's history and agricultural heritage
 - Site for educational programs and events focused on historical, agricultural, environmental and rural arts themes
 - Working organic farm

Raymond-Ambler House Project

Project Description:

- Rehabilitation using national guidelines
- Project being conducted in 2 major phases
 - Phase I – Structural Repairs and Stabilization
 - Interior demolition
 - Structural engineering
 - Architectural work
 - Structural work including stabilization
 - Estimated cost of Phase I - \$970,000

Raymond-Ambler House Project

Project Description:

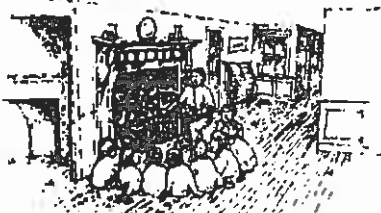
- Phase II – Interior restoration and site work
 - Electrical, plumbing, heating/AC
 - Floor repairs and refinishing
 - Painting
 - Fire stairs
 - Walkways
 - Retaining wall
- Estimated cost of Phase II - \$925,000

Raymond-Ambler House Project

Project Status:

- Substantial progress made on Phase I
 - Cost of work completed ~ \$630,000
 - Rear section still requires work
 - Plan to complete in second half of 2012
- Phase II slated to commence first half of calendar 2013
 - Goal to complete project in 2013
- Important to resume work soon due to current state of deterioration

Raymond-Ambler House Project



A French clock in the room of the Raymond Ambler Farmhouse
shown by Rich Hall, Fanny Smith, and others

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION
OF THE TOWN OF WILTON TO SUPPORT THE SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL
PLANNING AGENCY'S PURSUIT OF FUNDING UNDER THE STATE OF
CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) seeks to make application under the Regional Performance Incentive Program administered by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and,

WHEREAS, such application is for the purpose of procuring funding to undertake a multi-town orthoimagery flight for the purpose of developing digital aerial photography and,

WHEREAS, such information is of potential benefit to the Town of Wilton in terms of advancing its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities and,

WHEREAS, through a regional approach, this application offers a potential cost benefit to participating communities, including the Town of Wilton and,

WHEREAS, if approved, Town of Wilton reserves all rights to withdraw from this project for any reason, including but not limited to cost considerations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Wilton, approves this resolution, supporting initiatives by the Southwestern Regional Planning Agency to make application and secure funding under the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management's Regional Performance Incentive Program.

I, Bettye Joan Ragognetti, Town Clerk of the Town of Wilton, do hereby certify this to be true copy of the resolution duly adopted at the Board of Selectmen meeting on January 17, 2012 in Wilton, Connecticut, and that it has not been rescinded, amended or altered in any way, and that it remains in full force and in effect.

Bettye Joan Ragognetti, Town Clerk