

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100

Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: Selectman@Wiltonct.org



William F. Brennan
First Selectman

Susan A. Bruschi
Second Selectman

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Second Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter **ABSENT:** Selectman Hal Clark,

GUESTS: Michael Lombardo, Robert Nerney

OTHERS: Joan Lounds (Bulletin), Tom Evans (Villager), Craig Donofrio (Patch.com),

First Selectmen Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Creeth, seconded by Mr. Hoffstatter and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Gift of Land for Open Space

Mr. Brennan gave the background on property that had been bequeathed to the Town (approximately 1 acre of land off Grumman Hill Rd.) by the Perry Evans Estate to be used as open space and added that there is a procedure to handle this referring it to the Conservation Commission and Planning and Zoning. He asked Bob Nerney to further elaborate. Mr. Nerney explained that the land is roughly an acre of wooded parcel and is semi-rural. In order to receive this property he added it's typically referred to the Conservation Commission and there's also a §8-24 referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission which means that P&Z looks into long range planning that might be adverse to accepting the parcel. While he doesn't anticipate this, it's part of the process. Mr. Brennan said that they would prepare an §8-24 and get it on the list for the next P&Z Agenda. In the meantime they would

let Mr. Bayer,(the attorney for the estate), know that the Town is very much interested in the property and is just following the necessary procedures.

2. Application for Scenic Road Designation

Mr. Brennan said that there had been an application for a scenic road designation and explained what the definition is and the process for such a designation. Mr. Nerney said that this particular area is on the Town of Weston border. The people partitioning are largely from Weston. The Scenic Road Designation doesn't deter development in any way, he explained, but it puts some safe guards in place for the esthetic quality of the roadway. Mr. Brennan added that the Assessor is taking a look to see if the length and width meet the physical requirements. After that it will go on to other boards and departments for review. He added that there would be no action taken yet by the Board of Selectmen, this was just the preliminary introduction to this application.

3. Grant Application for \$60,000 Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Chief Lombardo explained that this is a grant that the Town has had that covers approximately two-thirds of the annual salary for one of his detectives. This detective is assigned to the Connecticut Intelligence Center, working with other local, State and Federal employees. It provides new and specialized training that wouldn't be provided otherwise. He went on to say how the Grant benefits the Town. Mr. Brennan agreed that this is very beneficial and a win-win for the Town the other members of the Board agreed.

Mr. Brennan asked Chief Lombardo to explain the security training that was going to be held for the Town Employees and Chief Lombardo said that there would be training sessions held on May 10th and May 11th on security training for all Town employees.

4. Appointment of Paul Hannah to the Council on Public Facilities

Mr. Brennan made a MOTION to Appoint Paul Hannah to the Council on Public Facilities. Mr. Hoffstatter seconded the MOTION and it carried unanimously.

5. Appointment of Judy Zucker to the Commission on Social Services

Ms. Bruschi made a MOTION to appoint Judy Zucker to the Commission on Social Services. Mr. Creeth seconded the MOTION and it carried unanimously.

6. Quarterly Meeting Schedule with the Library Board of Trustees

Mr. Brennan reviewed dates that the Board of Selectmen would meet with the Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Bruschi said that she wouldn't be able to make the August 1st meeting but the other dates seem to be alright. Mr. Hoffstatter said that he might have a problem with the August 1st meeting as well. Mr. Brennan said that it was understandable that everyone wouldn't be able to make every meeting but as long as there's a majority present it would be alright.

7. FY 12 Budget Schedule – Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Brennan said that the challenging journey to come up with a budget for 2012 is almost over. The Board of Selectmen was requested by the Board of Finance to reduce their budget by approximately \$330,000 (1% reduction) because of a potential high mill rate. In anticipation of this, all departments made contingency plans for cutting their budgets. The Annual Town Meeting is set for May 3rd at 7:30 at the Clune Center and Bob Russell will be moderator, voting will take place after the meeting. There will be an adjourned vote from 9 AM to 6 PM at the Clune Center on Saturday May 7th.

8. Miscellaneous Other Business

Economic Development Mr. Brennan said that Paul Timpenelli who is President/CEO of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 2nd. Wilton is a member of the “One Coast, One Future” consortium of 14 communities in lower Fairfield County. It is a regional initiative to promote vibrant economic growth in the area. Economic development has been recognized by the Federal Government (by the US Dept. of Commerce) which makes this area eligible for economic development grants.

Yankee Gas Mr. Brennan said that he had invited Mike Collins (regional executive from Yankee Gas) and Chris Swann from CL&P along with local commercial property owners and business leaders to a meeting to discuss bringing a gas line further into Wilton. Mr. Brennan went on to say that this is very important to the Town from the standpoint of conservation, as well as lower energy costs and economic development.

STEAP Grant for River Road Mr. Brennan said that when the lamppost project was done several years ago, they had to put in trenching for the conduits. Half the road was repaved but the other half was not. They are going to put in new curbing the entire length of River Road into the Village Center. This will improve the appearance of Wilton Center and the area that was not repaved will now be paved. \$200,000 from the Federal STEAP grant will be put towards this effort.

C. Public Comment – there was no public comment

D. Reports

1. First Selectman –

Mr. Brennan said that after the Town had received approval for a TOD grant (Transit Oriented Development) creating a pedestrian pathway over the Norwalk River, tying the RR Station to the Village area, OPM (the Office of Policy and Management) was requesting that the grant be resubmitted. Since New Canaan had experienced a similar situation, Mr. Brennan and First Selectman Jeb Walker spoke to Governor Malloy when they were in Hartford recently. He said that the Governor

understood their frustration and said that he would see what he could do. Mr. Brennan read a follow-up letter that he and Mr. Walker had sent the Governor after their meeting.

Town attorney, Ken Bernhard is collecting used shoes for the organization “Soles 4 Souls” which supplies shoes for people around the world who don’t have shoes. A box has been placed in the front hall of the Town Hall for donations.

The “Go Green Festival” is all set for May 1st and at 2:30 PM the Board of Selectmen will be at a Tent at the Town Green.

2. Ms. Bruschi –

Asked how the solar dedication at the High School went? Mr. Brennan replied that it went very well and was very well attended, indicating how strong the support for energy conservation is in the Town.

3. Mr. Hoffstatter –

Commented on how commendable he thinks it is for Stop & Shop to be having their own reusable bag give-away. He also complimented how well Trackside is doing, increasing the usage of the building and still keeping a flat budget. He added that they are doing a Cinco de Mayo fundraiser on April 30th and he encouraged people to come out and support it.

4. Mr. Creeth – Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Corrado