

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
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Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

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

GUESTS: Sandy Dennies, Lt. Stephen Brennan, Steve Pierce, Bruce Hampson, Karen Birck, Jana Bertkau, Deborah Hunsberger, Peg Koellmer, approximately 5 members of public, Jan Andras

OTHERS: Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Kara O'Connor (Villager), Christian Camarota (Patch), T. J. Buzzeo (The Daily Wilton)

First Selectmen Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

A. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Ms. Bruschi, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as follows: (Mr. Clark abstained from approval of the minutes.)

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of October 18, 2010

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle and Personal Property Taxes as per Tax Collector Memo dated 10/19/10
- Motor Vehicle Taxes as per Tax Collector Memo dated 10/28/10

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Comstock Community Center Maintenance

First Selectman Brennan read a statement about the maintenance work being done at the Comstock building (attached to these minutes). He also distributed pictures of the improvements that have been made to date. Ms. Peg Koellmer, along with Steve Pierce, will be coming back to the November 15 Selectmen's meeting to show the expanded senior center plans for the building. Mr. Pierce, Ms. Koellmer, Susan Chalons-Browne and Judy Zucker are to be commended for their efforts in achieving these much needed improvements to the Senior Center and to the food pantry.

2. Wilton Go Green Committee Presentation

Ms. Jana Bertkau and Deborah Hunsberger were present on behalf of the Go Green Festival Committee, along with Mr. Bruce Hampson and Ms. Karen Birck of Go Green and of the Energy Commission. The 2010 Go Green Festival, in collaboration with the Library, public schools and 8 other non profit organizations, was considered a successful event promoting energy conservation and sustainable living. Another festival is being planned for May 2, 2011. A slide presentation of the future goals and plans of a Go Green Committee was given. The Energy Commission is recommending a spin-off of the Go Green Committee as a separate entity and they are asking for the support of the Board of Selectmen. They plan to apply for 501(c)3 non-profit status to enable them to apply for grants and to accept tax deductible donations. The Selectmen thanked those present and stated that they do support the Go Green Committee as a separate agency from the Wilton Energy Commission.

3. Reusable Shopping Bags

The CCE has solicited many letters that were received by the Board of Selectmen from residents who agree with a ban on plastic bags. There have also been many opinions expressed against a ban and costs associated for retailers and citizens. We have learned that paper is not a good alternative. Re-usable shopping bags seem to be favored and, obviously, they reduce the use of plastic and paper. After many discussions and two informational meetings, it is the consensus of the Selectmen to ask the Go Green Committee to spearhead a town-wide educational program aimed at increasing the use of re-usable shopping bags and after 6-9 months attempt to measure the success in terms of a decline in plastic bag usage. Mr. Hampson advised that the GGC has already begun to plan such a program. They will be coming to the Board of Selectmen to request town funds in order to engage

professional help to develop an effective program. No further action will be taken to draft an ordinance at this time, but that could still be an option if results from an educational program do not indicate a significant decrease in the use of disposable bags. In the meantime, an opinion will be sought from Town Counsel regarding the legality of charging for plastic/paper retail bags at check out.

4. Budget Calendar

The calendar of meetings for preparation of the 2012 Budget was reviewed by the Selectmen and approved.

5. 2011 SEU Grant – State of CT Comprehensive Enforcement Program Grant

Lt. Stephen Brennan was present to request approval for the application to the State of CT.

Ms. Bruschi moved to approve the 2011 SEU Grant Application for a State of CT Comprehensive Enforcement Program Grant. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

6. Miscellaneous Other business

CERT – During the recent drowning incident, CERT volunteers were a great assistance to the Police and Fire Departments and saved overtime costs by assisting in traffic control during the lengthy search. The Police and Fire Departments have forwarded official recognition to Mr. Jack Majesky of CERT and Mr. Ron Hitter of the Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps. expressing appreciation to all of our valuable volunteers.

Hazardous Waste Day – This was held at the transfer station on 10/23/10 with 471 cars bringing waste, of which 400 were Wilton residents. This is up from 5% of Wilton households last year to 6.5% this year. Mr. Clark added that he was very impressed with the great job done by the Conservation Commission and the subcontractor handling the waste, especially in the handling of an incident involving asbestos. He suggests that more be done to educate citizens as to what they can do at the transfer station, i.e. disposal of CFLs, etc.

Wilton Commons – Special Town Meeting – At a 10/4 meeting, the BOS approved the holding of a STM to ratify a one year extension of the option agreement with Wilton Commons. The Charter requires that the BOS set the date, time and place. Mr. Creeth moved to hold a Special Town Meeting on November 30, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Middlebrook School for the purpose

of extending the option agreement with Wilton Commons, Inc. for the period of one year. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

November Election – Mr. Brennan encouraged all citizens to vote tomorrow. He also requested that campaign signs be removed within 48 hours after the election.

Appointments – Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Mr. R. P. Andrew McNee as a member of the WPCA and Mr. Paul Mazzarulli as a member of the Wilton Energy Commission. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

There are two very well qualified candidates for a vacancy on the Wilton Library Board of Trustees – Ms. Nancy McManus and Ms. Ileana Barns-Slavin. A paper ballot was distributed and Ms. McManus was unanimously chosen. Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Ms. Nancy McManus as a member of the Wilton Library Board of Trustees. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

All Selectmen agreed that they were very impressed with Ms. Barns-Slavin and would recommend her for appointment to other boards or commissions.

C. Public Comment:

Mr. Milton Pohl, Hurlbutt Street – Regarding the Wilton Commons project, he advised that in early presentations on this project, it was said that “Seniors of Wilton have supported this community for decades. Those who wish to stay in the town should be able to do so”. He asked the BOS to reconsider their decision not to hold a Saturday adjourned vote on the extension of the option agreement and urged voters to come to the Special Town Meeting on 11/30/10.

D. Reports

1. First Selectman’s Report :

Transfer Station Scale – Installation is continuing on the new hydraulic scale. Pictures were distributed.

VMG – The sod was put down today and donated granite benches were installed.

Teak Benches – The Conservation Commission and Pat Sesto are accepting donations to purchase teak benches with memorial plaques. Several have already been installed around the Town Center.

Train Station – The station was officially re-opened this week. The DOT has hired an outside firm to open, close and maintain the building from 5:45 am to 9:45 am during the heaviest use. This is the first step. DOT will be issuing an RFP for interested parties to operate a food concession service or other business at the station. The station would then be manned during the day and would be open longer hours. The Town does not own the station or the parking area.

Rt. 33 Bridge – Cylindrical bearings are being replaced. DOT is requesting police coverage from 3:30 to 7:30 pm to manually operate the traffic light during this heavy traffic period.

Crossways – This should be completed by the end of this year.

415 Danbury Road – Real estate brokers will be assessing the rental value the end of this week.

405 Danbury Road (Marvin Tavern) – The building has been power washed. Within two weeks, real estate brokers will be consulted for a rental value for the two apartments.

2. Selectmen Reports

Ms. Bruschi: She and Mr. Brennan met with NESC to discuss the progress on the senior survey. They have interviewed 30 people, including seniors and employees/commission members who work with seniors and are completing a “working survey document” for BOS review and comment.

Mr. Hoffstatter: No report

Mr. Clark: Police Fund issues have been resolved.

Mr. Creeth: No report

E. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary

att: Brennan Comments – Comstock Building