

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: August 3, 2015
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Place: Town Office
Present: Chairman Richard E. Swanson, Selectmen William F. Condra and Kermit R. Williams.
Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

Members of the public were in attendance to hear the discussion and decision on the proposed traffic pattern at Florence Rideout Elementary School.

Chairman Swanson outlined the format of the meeting. First the Selectmen would hear any changes to last week's minutes; then they would review the updated plans with Dawn Tuomala, Steve Elliott and Harry Dailey, and ask any questions they had; and then public comments would be taken.

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to accept the minutes from last week's meeting as taken by Joanna Eckstrom. Selectman Williams seconded the motion. Joanna stated that there were two names that needed to be corrected or filled in. Those changes were noted and the motion to accept was voted unanimously in favor. Motion carries.

Dawn Tuomala presented two plans with the updates discussed at the previous meeting. A lengthy discussion followed. Among the discussion were these topics: The number of parking spaces per side; the width of the parking spaces; parallel and 45 degree parking; the traffic flow; employee parking; a painted sidewalk on part of Tremont Street; delaying the traffic pattern discussion until next year; comments and questions from the public; and safety concerns for the children.

The Selectmen wanted to try to break the discussion into two parts: Parking and the traffic pattern. Public Works Director Steve Elliott suggested that it may make sense to put the decision regarding the lower section of Tremont Street off until next year when it is scheduled for work. He did not feel clear that there was a good plan that would address everything. Selectman Williams agreed with Steve that a more solid plan that would go with the intended scheduled work made more sense than a temporary sidewalk. He would like to see a traffic study on walkers on that part of the road.

Disagreement with the traffic pattern made a decision difficult. Chairman Swanson said he was comfortable with the traffic flow excluding Tremont Street. Selectman Williams stated that Tremont Street had been like this for more than 100 years. Jerry Greene said that not as many children walk to school now and the cars that now can't go down Tremont Street will add to a traffic back-up during school hours. Selectman Condra said he was not in favor of having competing traffic flows.

Motion: Selectman Williams made a motion to wait for another year to look for a more complete construction plan for lower Tremont, and maintain the current traffic pattern. There was no second to the motion.

Motion: Chairman Swanson moved to accept the recommendation made to turn Tremont Street into a one-way going north and paint a sidewalk strip on the east side going up to school. Selectman Condra seconded the motion. The vote was: Selectman Condra, aye; Chairman Swanson, aye; Selectman Williams, nay; Motion carries two to one.

Audience member Tracy Ewing asked if no one uses the sidewalk will the Board reverse their decision. Chairman Swanson said yes they can always reverse their decision. Jerry Greene said that a five foot painted sidewalk is excessive for 8 students. Dawn Tuomala stated that the municipal book suggests 5 foot crosswalks but they are not bound by the book if they think a 4 foot width would be better.

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to amend the plan to make a four foot painted sidewalk instead of a five foot one. Chairman Swanson seconded the motion. Jeff Stone asked if that left room to make Tremont Street one-way only during certain times. Chairman Swanson stated that he knows it's inconvenient, but he feels a simple solution is better than a more complicated one. Vote: Chairman Swanson, aye; Selectman Condra, aye; Selectman Williams, nay. Motion carries 2 to 1.

Chairman Swanson asked if there was any further action needed to which Dawn Tuomala responded with a concern about stop signs. There was a discussion regarding an extra stop sign at the bottom of Livermore Street.

Motion: Chairman Swanson made a motion to approve a stop sign at the south end of Livermore Street and a stop sign at the intersection of Tremont and Prince Street. The motion was seconded and unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Lynn Stone expressed her concern that her morning commute will take longer because she will have to wait through the drop-off in the morning. Harry Dailey responded that they are trying to increase student safety.

Chairman Swanson stated that they would now move on to the parking issue.

Motion: Selectman Williams made a motion to approve the proposed parking plan as Dawn Tuomala has drawn but amend the spaces to 22 foot spaces as it is the standard outside of Wilton. He thanked Dawn and Steve for all the work they did on this project. Selectman Condra seconded the motion saying the he likes the longer spaces also. Steve Elliott asked if the plan is to approve paving also. Dawn's plan includes paving and curbing and Steve recommends curbing, drainage and paving, but there is a time constraint. The Selectmen's vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

Steve confirmed that he could hire a contractor immediately.

Steve Elliott had the next agenda item which was to request the permission to put temporary "no parking" signs up during the street reclaiming project. He would like the signs to note temporary parking between the hours of 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., but he does not want to be locked into exact dates. There was discussion on the issue.

Motion: Selectman Williams moves to post Tremont and Livermore Streets for no parking for the period of August 12th and 13th and August 17th or as needed from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. as temporary "no parking" for purposes of reclaiming and repaving the streets. Selectman Condra seconded the motion, followed by a unanimous vote. Motion carries.

That ended the agenda items so the Selectmen moved on to their discussion items

The High Mowing abatement recommendation was approved.

The Board instructed Administrative Assistant Pam Atwood to ask Mark Gabel to come in and meet with the Selectmen. They had a discussion with Conservation Commission member Jeff Stone about the cars and materials at the property.

The Selectmen read a letter from resident Gary Newsted and discussed the logging operation on Mason Road. Chairman Swanson stated that there were no load limit signs posted on that road and the logging operators are using the road as allowed. He does not see any legal way for the Board to ask them to pay for road damage. He believes the Timber Tax being collected implies that the Town is receiving some revenue.

Next they talked about the sudden and surprising closing of Roam Café, saying that it puts downtown Wilton in a desperate situation; there are some serious vacancy problems. Selectman Williams would like a discussion on Wilton's economic development; he will also have a discussion with the Planning Board.

Tracy Ewing talked about the situation that happened in the Catskills in New York.

Chairman Swanson said we need a vision that will work; it might be arts. Peterborough has done a good job with their businesses. There was further discussion. Selectman Williams talked about a possible food co-op in the old Harwood's location. The people involved in this possible idea will be invited to a future meeting. This discussion turned into a discussion about a Town Administrator. After a discussion on the two different topics of economic development and a Town Administrator, Selectman Williams offered to call Milford's Town Administrator to come in for a discussion.

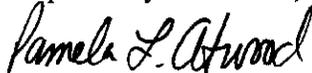
Pam had a discussion about using a town email address for all elected officials and Department Heads/employees. The Selectmen agreed that we should have this and directed Pam to pursue it.

Next, they discussed the abatement recommendation for PEP Direct. Selectman Williams explained why he is uncomfortable with Todd's proposal and asked that Assessor Todd Haywood be invited to a meeting to discuss this topic.

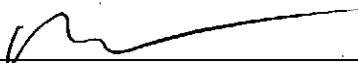
The other topics touched on were: The response letter to Trespass Towing; overtime in the Highway Department; the Wage and Salary Committee's future report on its' progress.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 P.M. by Selectman Condra, seconded by Selectman Williams, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;



Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary



Richard E. Swanson, Chairman



William F. Condra



Kermit R. Williams

8-17-15

Date Signed