

## Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – September 24, 2012

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:08. J. Huebner and S. Lennon in attendance for the Selectmen.
2. After the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from 9/17. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. K. Walls of the Conservation Commission asked J. Huebner if he had received the email from Westfield Wild and Scenic. J. Huebner confirmed that he had received this email and expressed his disappointment that there was no mention of funding for either Eden Glen or Cross Place Road. J. Huebner said that he would follow up with Roy Bryan on this. Phil Clark joined the meeting and discussion of the Eden Glen project ensued. P. Clark said that we qualify for the application period that is open now. Today he received the cost/benefit analysis software from FEMA. He will have to use this to fill out the Town's application. He mentioned that he had spoken with D. Fish about the cost to repair Frost Road after the last flood. P. Clark will use that estimate as a reasonable basis for his project analysis for FEMA. Basically we have to show a cost/benefit of 1.0. The cost/benefit analysis is due in December. This is all part of the engineering study. P. Clark said that the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis shows that the dam opening needs to be 3 times what it is now. It should be about 30 feet. He is looking now at how this impacts Frost Road and surrounding properties close to the road and downstream. His measurements show that the banks need to be 30 feet apart to handle the flow at flood stage. He is considering two major responses. One is the over-topping of Eden Glen Dam. The dam needs a secondary wall so the brook won't flood the road. It also needs a spillway. The second action he is considering is raising the road and building a bigger culvert. An Eden Glen resident raised the issue of the existing culvert. He pointed out that it needs to be re-faced. The cement is crumbling. P. Clark said that the state may order the dam to go. We may not have any other option.
4. J. Huebner asked P. Clark his opinion on the demolition of the Mapleview building on Lovers' Lane. Does the Town have any other options? P. Clark responded that the Town will have to demolish it. Even though it is not contaminated it will require an asbestos check before demolition. This should be part of our budget for demolition. P. Clark said that his company would go in to identify any asbestos and do specs for abatement and removal. He said that if the Town plans to sell the land, we will have to haul away the debris. J. Huebner will try to get a grant for asbestos clearing. He asked P. Clark for an estimate of the cost. P. Clark said that \$100,000 was not unreasonable. D. Fish mentioned that we can get some money back for salvage of copper or other metals.
5. J. Huebner announced that he will be attending the October 4 meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Pittsfield.

6. Regarding the MMA Chapter 90 survey received last week, J. Huebner reported that he had completed the Town's response and sent it on to the state. He estimated in his reply that the Town would require \$1,000,000 annually for twelve years to bring all town roads up to a good state of repair and \$250,000 annually to maintain roads.
7. J. Huebner read into the record that the Town tax rate has been reduced to \$12.91.
8. J. Huebner announced that the Commonwealth's 133 Green Communities have each received \$125,000 in grant money from the State. He made a motion that we bring the Green Communities initiative back to Town for action at the next Town Meeting. S. Lennon seconded that motion and it passed unanimously.
9. J. Huebner made a motion that we accept the October Selectmen's letter. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. J. Huebner will add a sentence about the success of the Green Communities initiative to the letter and mention that it will be brought up for a vote again at the next Town Meeting.
10. J. Huebner read into the record a letter that he had written to The Nature Conservancy objecting to their blocking legal access to the Town's North Lake property with a chain across the road leading from the parking area. He demanded that TNC remove the chain immediately. He also wrote that it posed a great hazard to the many snowmobilers who use that area. Town Counsel advised on this letter.
11. E. Bond confirmed that about a dozen residents have already volunteered to work on the Pumpkin Walk. They met at Town Hall earlier this evening. The event will be officially named the John F. X. Keater Memorial Pumpkin Walk. It is scheduled this year for Friday, October 26.
12. Ernie Lampron addressed the Board about the procedure for getting permission to put up a sign for his business. The Board recommended that he check the relevant Town by-laws and make Marilyn Wiley of the Planning Commission aware of his plans. The Board saw no reason he could not put up a sign. D. Spencer mentioned that he had recently put up a new, larger sign at this tree farm.
13. K. Avalle of the Assessor's office addressed the Board and submitted her report. Washington was the seventh town to be approved by the state and we have the second lowest tax rate. J. Huebner thanked her for her hard work in getting this done for the Town and congratulated her on the accomplishment.
14. Shaun Lennon volunteered to help direct traffic and be constable at the Pumpkin Walk. He requested a badge from the Town. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to order a constable's badge for S. Lennon. Chief Breen agreed to do so. He mentioned that he has already hired two police

officers to manage traffic during the Pumpkin Walk, as he does each year. This is covered by the Walk budget. D. Spencer confirmed that the budget covers this expense.

15. J. Huebner announced that the bid deadline for the Doors and Windows Installation project had been pushed back to October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30. The Town is seeking a painting contractor to de-lead and paint the building and trim before the windows are installed. This effort will not require competitive bidding as the cost is not estimated to require that process.
16. Mark Levernoch, the Plumbing Inspector addressed the Board and said that he needs to renew his certification from the state. He asked the Board to sign his paperwork for this. The Board agreed to do so. Jodi Hostetter typed the paperwork and the Board signed it. He will attend class to be in compliance.
17. J. Huebner asked P. Clark if he knew the address of the state's Public Service Office. P. Clark supplied this information from his I Phone. It is: Public Utilities Commission, 100 Cambridge Street, Ste. 900, Boston, MA, 02114. J. Hostetter will use the information to correctly address the Board's letter regarding Verizon's refusal to trim trees brushing against the wires on Washington Mt. Road. The Board will sign the letter in session next week.
18. J. Huebner announced that he had notice of an Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> brownfields forum to be held in Holyoke. This will involve case studies of brownfield sites. As it really is not relevant to our Mapleview challenge, he will not attend.
19. D. Fish said that he will bring documentation on CSX damage to Upper Valley Road to the Selectmen's meeting next week. Photos will be included. P. Clark will confer with D. Fish on this. J. Huebner said that this documentation will be the basis for our letter to CSX. We need to show the damage done to the road by their negligence.
20. Treasurer C. Briggs appeared before the Board and inquired about the Town's policy for reimbursing for a seminar which an employee has had to attend. J. Huebner told her that the Town will reimburse for mileage, tuition and hours in class. The Town will not reimburse for gasoline. C. Briggs said that she has not contacted MIIA yet about the Town Hall's insurance assessment. She has had no word from UI.
21. J. Hostetter told the Board that the septic system report is completed. She is working on the annual reports. She asked S. Lennon to re-hang the pictures taken down for the painting of the Town Hall interior. He said that he will hang up the pictures. J. Huebner asked her to call J. Les about maintenance contacts for the Town's computers. J. Hostetter said that she and BOH agent Ed Fahey are ready to present to the Board the details of their communication process. Huebner said that there will be a BOH meeting on October 15.

22. J. Huebner will attend the legislative breakfast in Williamstown on Oct 12. He urged S. Lennon to join him if his work schedule allows.

23. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen about the status of the school van agreement with Becket. Chief Breen reported that Becket has told him that they will cover insurance cost and \$1000 annual rental. Washington will be responsible for putting new tires on the van. The process details are still being worked out. J. Huebner will ask D. Parnell to take over the work with Becket at this point.

24. J. Huebner reported that he had received a letter from John Boyle of Dalton requesting a three-town meeting to be attended by the Select Board Chairs from Dalton, Hinsdale and Washington to discuss an agreement to place a weight limit on traffic using Blotz /Kirchner Road. Mr. Kokido, Chair of the Hinsdale Board has not yet responded to this invitation. Dalton is clearly supportive of our proposal to place the weight limitation on Blotz Rd. They are trying to schedule the meeting for Oct 4. J. Huebner said that he had discussed the weight limit with Craig Willis of White Wolf, a major user of the road, and he had no objection. J. Huebner stressed that this is a big safety issue. Two accidents have happened there recently. Chief Breen said that there have been 12 accidents on the road over the past 5 years. One of these was fatal.

25. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson is she had written and set the letter to Verizon about moving their line from the old pole on Middlefield Road to the new pole. J. Nelson reported that she had written the letter, but had trouble finding a local Verizon address to send it to. D. Spencer suggested she try Albany or Boston. She will research this and get the letter sent.

26. J. Huebner announced that there will be no Selectmen's Meeting on Columbus Day , October 8<sup>th</sup>.

27. At 8:20pm S. Lennon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Huebner seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes written by J. Nelson