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**TOWN OF WINDHAM, NH**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**  
**Community Development Department**  
**3 North Lowell Rd.**  
**Approved Minutes**

8 Attendance:

9 Chairman Ross McLeod- present  
10 Vice Chair Heath Partington- present  
11 Mark Samsel- present  
12 Bruce Breton- present  
13 Roger Hohenberger- present  
14

15 Staff:

16 Brian McCarthy- Town Administrator  
17 Alexander Mello- Community Development Director  
18

19 Announcements

20  
21 Mark Samsel made an announcement regarding attendance of the state and regional economic  
22 update with Alex and Dale.  
23

24 Mr. McCarthy read the 3 public hearing announcements for the upcoming meeting on October  
25 16 regarding subdivision roads, items in the right of way, and Searles School and chapel fees;  
26 these will be posted on a future agenda.  
27

28 Local Energy Committee

29  
30 Mr. Allen Reed from the Local Energy Committee, addressed the Board. Mr. Reed presented the  
31 Board with an updated packet. Mr. Reed reviewed the packet given to the Board and presented  
32 to the public regarding the message and agenda of the LEC. Mr. Reed reviewed the first  
33 proposed actions of the Community Power Aggregation Project. Mr. Reed stated that there are  
34 two possible vendors (consulting companies) that have all the templates necessary to move  
35 forward with the town warrant. The chosen company would do the negotiations and managing  
36 of a potential contract.  
37

38 Mr. Hohenberger asked what the negotiations encompassed regarding the different rates that  
39 might be available through the vendors. Mr. Reed stated that there would be a small fee in the  
40 energy delivery rate to residents for this service.  
41

42 Mr. Mark Kovacs, also part of the Local Energy Committee, addressed the Board. Mr. Kovacs  
43 stated that the rates would be approximately 10 cents a kilowatt. Mr. Hohenberger asked how  
44 often the rates are adjusted. Mr. Reed stated that the rates are often re-adjusted in a 6-month  
45 period. Many places in northern Massachusetts adjust their rates every year or two. Mr. Kovacs  
46 stated that consumers and towns can opt in and opt out per the RSA language and allowance.

47  
48 Mr. Hohenberger would like to put this decision before the voters. Mr. Reed suggested that the  
49 LEC be the local committee. Mr. Breton would like to know if there are only 2 vendors available  
50 to do this work; he would like that guarantee. Mr. Breton would like to make sure that they are  
51 not tied into one vendor and that they have the ability to go with the lowest bidder. Mr. Breton  
52 would like to make sure that they are getting the lowest rate available.

53  
54 **A motion was made by Mr. Samsel to form an electric aggregation committee under (RSA 53-**  
55 **E:6) and to create a Community Power Aggregation Committee and to approve a Community**  
56 **Power Aggregation Plan. Seconded by Mr. Breton. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

57  
58 Conservation Commission

59  
60 Mr. Mike Specian, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, addressed the Board. Mr. Samsel  
61 explained that there were artifacts that have been in paid storage. Mr. Specian stated that they  
62 would like to reinstate the Campbell Farm Subcommittee. Mr. Specian stated that the goal is  
63 to preserve the heritage of Windham but also preserve the money and resources currently  
64 being spent on potential unnecessary storage.

65  
66 **A motion was made by Mr. Samsel to appoint Mr. Hohenberger to the Campbell Farm**  
67 **Subcommittee during the duration of this Board's term. Seconded by Vice Chair Partington.**  
68 **Vote 4-0-1. Mr. Hohenberger abstained. Motion passes.**

69  
70 Master Plan

71  
72 Mr. Alexander Mello addressed the Board. Mr. Mello wished to thank the many community  
73 members to put together the Master Plan: Matt Rounds, Jennifer Simmons, Shannon Ulery,  
74 Roger Hohenberger and many other community members who contributed. Mr. Mello stated  
75 he appreciates how much the community members banded together to get the Master Plan  
76 completed and approved. Mr. Hohenberger also wished to thank Mr. Mello for all his hard work  
77 on the Master Plan as well.

78  
79 BOS Planning Board Liaison

80  
81 Mr. Hohenberger stated that the purpose of tonight was to look into exploring joining Regional  
82 Planning Commission that are, perhaps, more aligned with the demographics, goals and  
83 infrastructure of those communities.

84

85 Mr. Breton stated that the last time this was suggested, the organizations were brought in to  
86 make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Breton stated that it was helpful for the  
87 public, the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen to hear from all the regional planning  
88 commissions.

89  
90 Mr. Tom Earley, Chairman of the Planning Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Earley stated that  
91 they would like to empower the Board to be as collaborative as possible. The Board and Mr.  
92 Earley stated that they are interested in moving forward in the most collaborative way possible.  
93 Mr. McCarthy suggested having a special meeting for the presentation. Mr. Samsel asked what  
94 the problem was they were trying to solve. Mr. Earley stated that it is not the absence of  
95 something but making sure that they are continuing to be served in a productive way as this is  
96 essentially an expiring contract. Mr. Samsel stated that he would like to hear from Mr. Mello as  
97 he does utilize of the services as they exist presently. Mr. Earley stated that they are interested  
98 in a spirit of collaboration so each committee presenting at a special meeting may not be the  
99 best format.

100  
101 Mr. Alex Mello addressed the Board. Mr. Mello stated that the Community Development  
102 Department is assisted by the New Hampshire Planning Commission a lot. Mr. Mello stated that  
103 it helped him quite a bit coming from Massachusetts to New Hampshire. There has been  
104 tremendous help to the Fire Department, the Conservation Commission, the schools,  
105 Community Development and others. Mr. Mello stated that they do a lot of work behind the  
106 scenes and he does not see any current need in switching. Mr. Hohenberger stated that he sees  
107 this as the process going out to bid.

108  
109 The Chairman invited public comment.

110  
111 Mr. Jeanine Mason addressed the Board. Ms. Mason stated that the Planning Board voted to  
112 move forward to look into this potential request, yet, she is also pleased with the Southern  
113 New Hampshire Planning Committee.

114  
115 Mr. Bob Coole addressed the Board. Mr. Coole stated that when they were with Rockingham,  
116 they were too far away from the area geographically. Mr. Coole asked what would happen once  
117 they decide to shift back to the Committee they are currently with several years from now. Mr.  
118 Earley stated that there is nothing that has been presented that would suggested that they are  
119 unsatisfied with the current relationship.

120  
121 Chairman McLeod stated that what the Board is being tasked with tonight is to whether or not  
122 they might consider joining another regional planning commission. Mr. Breton stated that it is  
123 rarely asked of the Chairman, Mr. Peter Griffin, to come forward and presented what this  
124 commission is currently doing. Mr. Samsel does believe this is partly a communication issue and  
125 he would like to see information about how this commission is helping the town.

126

127 Vice Chair Partington does think it is important to evaluated the options of the town. Mr.  
128 Partington does think it is important to get information from the Planning Board and to be  
129 aligned with that Board as well.

130

131 Chairman McLeod would like this scheduled for at least a month out.

132

133 Mr. Peter Griffin addressed the Board. Mr. Griffin is the current Chairman of Southern New  
134 Hampshire Planning Committee. Mr. Griffin stated that it is good to review relationships and he  
135 is concerned because he does not think that the opinions expressed at the Planning Board are  
136 the “right reasons” for analyzing a potential new relationship with another Planning  
137 Committee. Mr. Griffin stated that he is concerned that the reason for requesting this is not as  
138 it might seem. Chairman McLeod stated that he is not that concerned what brought this  
139 request forward but what is the best interest of this Board and the town. Mr. Griffin, after  
140 clarification, stated that he is in support of the process if it is run by the Board of Selectmen and  
141 he urged the community to review the last Planning Board meeting regarding this agenda item.

142

143 Chief McPherson’s Memo from the Highway Safety Committee

144

145 Chief McPherson discussed the parking on Roulston Road parking near the Rail Trail. The  
146 Committee reviewed that area. Chief McPherson stated that there is no parking from Medicus  
147 to the Rail Trail. Users of the Rail Trail have been parking there for many years. Chief  
148 McPherson stated that they would like to have no parking signs posted along this road.

149

150 Mr. Dennis Senibaldi addressed the Board to discuss that it is a safety and welfare issue.

151

152 The Chair allowed public comment.

153

154 Ms. Anitra Lincicum, 23 Seavey Road, addressed the Board. Ms. Lincicum stated that there is a  
155 lot of foot and car traffic in the area and residents know to slow down. Yet, many people do not  
156 know there is not public parking in the area. (Mr. Breton later clarified that there are 4 public  
157 parking spaces in the area.) Ms. Lincicum is concerned that by restricted public access to the  
158 area, you are restricted access to the Rail Trail for those with mobility issues.

159

160 Mr. Senibaldi addressed the Board once again to discuss the motion sensor on the crosswalk  
161 light. Mr. Senibaldi stated that some people using the rail trail do not wait for the light to flash  
162 to cross safely.

163

164 Vice Chair Partington stated that putting out a fuller notice regarding this decision to see if the  
165 public might be interested in talking about this issue might be necessary and the Board was in  
166 agreement.

167

168 Community Development Director- minute taking

169

170 Mr. Tom Earley communicated with the Board of Selectmen prior to the meeting and then  
171 addressed the Board to discuss the Community Development Director, Alexander Mello. Mr.  
172 Earley is requesting compensation for the exemplary actions of Mr. Alexander Mello who did a  
173 great job being the minute taker when that Board did not have one. Mr. Earley stated that Mr.  
174 Mello did a great job stepping up and taking the time to do the minutes. The nature in which  
175 the minutes were taken by the Board were not as uniform and the accuracy of the minutes can  
176 be difficult. Mr. Breton stated that he feels bad about the way the minute taker left and that  
177 she was a good asset for the town and a good minute taker. Mr. Earley is looking to  
178 compensate Mr. Mello for the 13 sets of minutes that were generated.

179  
180 Mr. McCarthy stated that Windham is blessed to have Mr. Mello as the Community  
181 Development Director, enjoy his professionalism and joy in his job and what he does and his  
182 efforts are greatly appreciated.

183  
184 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to offer as recommended compensation to Mr.**  
185 **Mello for the minutes at the “regular rate”. Seconded by Mr. Breton. Vote 5-0. Motion**  
186 **passes.**

187  
188 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to approve the September 18<sup>th</sup> public draft as**  
189 **amended. Seconded by Mr. Samsel. Vote 4-0-1. Chairman McLeod abstained.**

190  
191 **A motion was made to go into non-public session under RSA 91A: II 3 (c) and (d). Seconded by**  
192 **Mr. Samsel. Roll call vote: Chairman McLeod, Vice Chair Partington, Mr. Samsel, Mr. Breton,**  
193 **and Mr. Hohenberger- yes. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

194  
195 Respectfully submitted by Anitra Lincicum