Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting – Regular Session – November 10, 2015

LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Room – Town Hall TIME: 6:30PM
PRESENT: Diane Vayda, Sarah Allen, John Tivnan – Selectmen; Chief O'Donnell; Al Collings; Kevin Dorman; BOH Members Melvin Dorman, John Frizzell, & Jason Paquette; Police new hire James Early (and family); Members of the WBPD; JP Ellery (T&G)

Call To Order: 6:32 pm

6:32 pm – Unanimously accepted the minutes of Sept. 29th Regular Session; Oct. 19th & 27th Regular Session.

Accepted the minutes of Sept. 30th Regular Session & Executive Session; Oct. 13th Regular Session; Oct. 14th Regular Session & Executive Session. Diane & Jack voted in favor; Sarah abstained due to absence at those meetings.

6:35 pm – Chief O'Donnell introduced new hire James Early to the Board who extended their congratulations. Officer Early then introduced members of his family who accompanied him to the meeting. Also in attendance were several of his colleagues in the WBPD.

6:45 pm – Al Collings, Chairman of the LWPA, presented a report on Lake Wickaboag. He discussed activities which included the Eagle Hill School Rowing Team (students ranging in age from 14 to 18) who practiced on the lake. There were no issues with this and the team has gone on to win in several meets. Al also covered Lake Wickaboag management actions, North Cove dredging status, and special projects. (See attached.)

6:55 pm – Correspondence:

Accepted unanimously, with regret, the resignation of

- Cynthia Norden, Director of COA.
- David Stanger, Jr., part-time Police Officer
- Janine Drake, Cemetery Clerk

Approved, unanimously, the appointment of Anthony Piazzo as Burial Grounds Commissioner (2018)

7:00 pm – Diane opened the Tax Classification Hearing advertised in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette on 30 October 2015. Kevin Dorman spoke on behalf of the Board of Assessors, giving an overview of FY16 tax assessment process. Upon the recommendation of the Assessors, Jack made a motion to adopt a single tax rate of $15.51 for FY16. Second by Sarah. Approved unanimously. This is an increase of $.53 per thousand over the FY15 tax rate.
7:14 pm – Diane closed the hearing and the Board continued with Correspondence:

Unanimously approved requests for Special Use Permits for Lake Wickaboag for:

- Blackstone Valley Bass Anglers – 6/26/2016
- Northern Bass Alliance – 4/17/2016
- Last Cast Anglers – 4/30/2016

Read a copy of a letter of appreciation from the West Brookfield Historical Commission addressed to Highway Superintendent Jim Daley re: the clean-up and trimming of the Old Indian Cemetery by Highway Dept. employee Sean Lyons.

Read a copy of a letter from the West Brookfield Historical Commission addressed to Tree Warden Jim DeMaio concurring with his recommendation to remove 8-10 dead or dying ash trees and the pruning of dead branches threatening gravestones in the Old Indian Cemetery.

Katie Marsh, Library Director, appeared before the Board to discuss her correspondence re: closing the library on Thursday, Dec. 24th and Saturday, Dec. 26th; and curtailing hours of operation on Thursday, Dec. 31st, closing at 6 pm rather than 8 pm. The library will be open for White Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 6th. No formal vote was taken; however, each member agreed to the proposal.

Jim Daley sent a letter re: vacation time accrual. It appears that when he was hired in 2010, he agreed to the contract because he was offered 15 days of vacation time in lieu of additional salary. It was his understanding that he would be eligible for an additional 5 days after completing 5 years of service. The Board took it under advisement.

7:32 pm – The Board of Health met with the Select Board to discuss the water contamination issue on New Braintree Rd. Leachate from the former landfill on Wigwam Rd. is contaminated with 1.4 dioxane, a toxic chemical found in household cleaners and personal care products such as shampoo. The leachate has previously been detected at The Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club on New Braintree Rd. Results of a Nov. 3rd test at 81 New Braintree Rd. indicated that the well water was contaminated with 1.4 dioxane. It appears that the leachate is moving in the direction of the center of town. The BOH will supply bottled water to any households whose wells have been tested and found to be contaminated.

It was also pointed out by the BOH that the original appropriation of $175,000 for the water main project that would provide town water to New Braintree Rd. residents with contaminated wells which was passed at the annual town meeting in June, 2015 fell far short of current projections of about $330,000. Therefore, we need to
schedule a special town meeting as soon as practicable. The Select Board will discuss the financial ramifications with the Town Accountant.

7:40 pm – Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signatures]
Chairman  Vice Chairman  Clerk
Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association  
2015 Report to West Brookfield Board of Selectpersons  
November 10, 2015

1. Lake Wickaboag management actions
   a. Clear water with 5-8 feet of visibility from May to July.
   b. Weed growth delayed to late July with spot treatment on August 10th for variable milfoil, Chara, and pond weed. Beach pond also treated for variable milfoil.
   c. Anticipatory copper sulfate for algae on August 10th.
   d. Spot Lily pad treatment September 17th after flowers disappeared.
   e. Significant algae bloom in September to late October. Bloom disappeared when water temperatures dropped.

2. Lake Wickaboag North Cove dredging status
   a. Favorable Apex report on Madden Road gravel pit soil sampling and disposal evaluation.
   b. Preliminary indication from property owner that 40-50 acre Madden Road gravel pit is available for deposit of dredge material.
   c. WB Town attorney advises that an “Invitation for Bids” must be prepared and advertised under MGL 30B for disposal sites for depositing dredging material.
   d. $5.0 million appropriation included in MA Environmental Bond approved by the MA Legislature and signed by Governor Patrick, requires Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs recommendation and Governor Baker’s approval before funds can be released.
   e. MA Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs visited Lake Wickaboag on August 20th. Secretary requires a project plan and multiple fiscal year draw schedule before considering recommending release of Environmental Bond funds. An issue is level of commitment we can get for eventual release of the $5.0 million.

3. Special projects
   a. Two WPI students studying the major source of sediment pollution into Mill Brook. Their report should be available next spring and help plan additional stormwater projects in the watershed.
   b. A UMass graduate student studying littoral zone ecology in winter lake drawdowns and collecting data at our dam over the next year to measure the changing water level as a result of our drawdown. Results will be provided to us.
   c. We are supporting the East Quabbin Land Trust Letter of inquiry to the MA Environmental Trust for a $20,000 grant to advance water quality improvements and land protection within the Lake Wickaboag watershed. We should know in January if the letter of inquiry is accepted and EQLT can proceed with the next step in applying for the grant.