TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 16, 2017

Present: Brad Hibbard
         Tom Long
         Richard Gobi
         Lori Loughlin
         Dan Bigda

Absent: Pam Griffing
         Jim Daley-Highway

Others Present: Deb Provencher-Selectwoman
                Diane Vayda-Selectwoman
                Phil Landine-Selectman
                Rayne Petruzzi-Common

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lori Loughlin at 6:15 p.m.

Tom Long asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Robert Blozie.

MINUTES: Dan Bigda made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2017. Tom Long second. Vote 3 to approve, 2 abstain (Brad Hibbard, Richard Gobi) the minutes of September 18, 2017 as presented.

GREEN COMMUNITY: Jim Daley was present. General discussion held. Do we want to revisit this? It was the committee’s opinion that this be presented at the Annual Town Meeting rather than a Special Town Meeting since it was initially defeated at the ATM. Jim Daley provided documentation on funding received from towns that have accepted the Green Community Initiative. Selectwoman Vayda said more information is necessary and thought it would be wise to hold several public forums prior to another vote. Phil Landine noted many towns have not accepted it and suggested we talk to other towns to determine its positive and negative aspects and additionally to find out why the Town of Leicester has continued to turn it down.

COMMON COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL: Rayne Petruzzi was present. She said the Common Committee did a walk around with Jim Daley and Jim Rust and determined that there are some trees that need pruning, three trees that need to be taken down and one or two that may need to be replaced. She presented a quote from Rust Tree Experts for $2,000. Tom Long said she should go before the Selectboard. It was noted that the Common Committee has $1040 in their budget and the Tree Warden’s budget has over $39,000 for tree removal.

Rayne Petruzzi was questioned about the $8000 remaining in the common fertilizer account. The account was initially established through an article at a prior ATM. Rayne explained that their committee has received organic fertilizer at no cost for the past two years through Jim Talvy. The committee spends $800 to have it spread. The committee would like to continue to apply the fertilizer annually going forward and is asking that the monies be encumbered for future use.
The committee questioned who was going to maintain the baseball diamond going forward. She said Jim Daley has agreed to maintain it.

**ENCUMBERED UPDATES:** Lori Loughlin has spoken to Johanna regarding requests for encumbrances. The Fire Department exhaust system has been completed and they are requesting that the $40,000 approved at an ATM several years ago be encumbered to pay the final invoice. Phil Landine stated the time clock system is a work in progress as it will be integrated in the new accounting system. He also said the BOS is working with the Treasurer regarding requests for encumbrances related to insurance. Lori said that funding in any accounts previously established by article that are no longer needed can be returned to the general fund via an article at the spring ATM.

**SPECIAL FALL TOWN MEETING:** The Selectboard said they had received several requests for articles for the proposed November Special Town Meeting. It was determined after speaking with the authors of the articles that none of the funding requests were pressing and could be put off until the ATM. Discussion held on the need for a Special Town Meeting. Tom Long made a motion that the Advisory Committee recommend not holding a Special Fall Town Meeting. Richard Gobi second. Vote was unanimous on the recommendation.

Richard Gobi presented a request for a bylaw change that would prohibit future members of the Selectboard from working for the Town to limit the potential for conflict. The article request was provided to the Selectboard for their review.

Our next meeting will be November 6, 2017 at 6:15 p.m.

Brad Hibbard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Bigda second. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary