

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, RECREATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS
Wednesday July 24, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Windham Town Hall, Court Room
979 Main Street
Willimantic

1. Call to Order.

Vice Chair Arnaldo Rivera called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Committee members present: Arnaldo Rivera, Dawn Niles,
Tom DeVivo

Town Staff Present: Town Engineer Joe Gardner, Brad Wojick Public Works
Superintendent, Scott Clairmont Assistant Public Works Superintendent, Tare Risley,
Recreation Director

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens and Delegations.

Norman James of the Windham No Freeze Shelter stated they were currently open.
Persons using shelter in danger of being attacked. Two homeless persons were recently
attacked at the Garden on Bridge. This was an attack upon Community, appealing that
town treat it accordingly.

Dawn Niles suggested an agenda item #11 be added to address issue.

Amy Vas Nunes stated animal control RFP was out. She would like a dog park named
after Tom and Peg McNally.

Lynn Duvall said town needs to make security on bridge a priority. She suggested better
lighting, camera, call boxes.

Arthur Rich, was one of people assaulted. They tried to throw him off bridge.

Sheilla ??????, a volunteer at the shelter said safety was a very serious issue and the
shelter needs to be open year round.

Jean DeSmett, said crime at this location has been a concern for years. Two people
assaulted there last year. She suggested security cameras.

Gary Fettzer, suggested cameras, seek donations.

Annie Clark, was homeless, has worked for town for 18 years. Shelter needs to be open
year round.

4. Town Council Committee Member Comments.

Tom DeVivo questioned whether Town controlled when shelter was open.

Norman James said no.

Dawn Niles asked if Chief John Wiley could stay until end of meeting.

Arnaldo Rivera stated Garden on Bridge is beautiful. Need to address problems right
away and that security cameras had been discussed before.

5. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on June 26, 2013.

A motion was made by Tom DeVivo to approve the minutes as submitted.

Dawn Niles provided one correction, and the corrected minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Contract Negotiations Between Town of Windham and Willimantic Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Wiley stated they had researched their bylaws and they could add a council member to their board.

Tom DeVivo said issue is a labor agreement.

Dawn Niles had sent out possible suggestions to members regarding a Memorandum of Understanding. She will send to Town Attorney Rich Cody.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Bike Path Funding

Town Engineer Joe Gardner presented a memo and costs for the bike path project.

He recommended that the Town take over a DEEP trails grant that had been awarded to the Willimantic White Water Partnership. Barbara McGrath president of Whitewater stated they were agreeable with this. A motion was made by Tom DeVivo to recommend to the Council the Town taking over the grant. The motion was passed by Dawn Niles and passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Public Works Bay Addition

Town Engineer Joe Gardner reviewed bids and funding sources. A motion was made by Dawn Niles and seconded by Tom DeVivo to recommend to the Council award of the addition to Mattern Construction in the amount of \$155,044. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Site for a Dog Park

Brad Wojick suggested the ball field at Lauter Park.

Tara Risley stated field has not been used since 2008. The field is to pony league dimensions, which nobody now uses.

Tom DeVivo stated the Norwich dog park was filthy.

Brad Wojick suggested Youngs Park as a possible site. He suggested polling the neighbors.

Dawn Niles requested staff develop costs and proposals for each site and bring back to the subcommittee.

Brad Wojick said they would be back in two, three months.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Community Services Fund

Dawn Niles stated the subcommittee was responsible for approving the expenditure of funds.

A motion was made by Tom DeVivo to approve the projects as listed in the budget.

Motion was not seconded.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles to include funding for the Fire Truck Light Parade. The motion was seconded by Tom DeVivo and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles, seconded by Tom DeVivo to add as item 11 Discussion regarding safety on the Garden on the Bridge. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion Regarding Safety on the Garden on the Bridge

Tom DeVivo stated police department was down 25% in manpower.

Brad Wojick suggested the Town's IT person investigate cameras.

Dawn Niles suggested motion sensors on camera tied to dispatch.

Chief John Wiley said it was possible

Arnaldo Rivera stated there needs to be a solution.

Tom DeVivo made a motion that the Town Manager work with staff on solutions and report back to the subcommittee within 15 days with recommendations and costs.

The motion was seconded by Dawn Niles and passed unanimously.

12 Adjournment.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion was seconded by Tom DeVivo and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Joseph Gardner

Town Engineer