

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, RECREATION, CULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Wednesday September 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM**  
**Windham Town Hall, Court Room**  
**979 Main Street**  
**Willimantic**

**1. Call to Order.**

Chair Charles Krich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Town Staff Present: Public Works Superintendent Brad Wojick, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Scott Clairmont, Recreation Director Tara Risley, Town Manager Neal Beets, Town Engineer Joe Gardner

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Citizens and Delegations.**

Bernard D'Auteuil discussed lack of security provided by ECSU police in regards to off campus students. Town needs to monitor pilot funds to offset costs to City by ECSU.

Dennis Cronin supports a dog park. He is concerned about dispatch operating with no contract. Suggested Town Manager be given authority to resolve.

Andrew Gutt owner of Thread City Café pleased with new sidewalks, would like trees and planters, Spoke in favor of holiday lighting, long term investment to Town.

Robert Sawyer thanked Chairman Krich and Brad Wojick for being receptive to cremated only areas in municipal cemeteries.

**4. Town Council Committee Member Comments.**

Lorraine McDevitt complained about loud music from the Thirsty Frog late at night.

Dawn Niles stated Thirsty Frog had been given a cease and desist by police department Arnaldo Rivera invited everyone to Julia de Burgos park on September 28 from 1 to 5 pm.

Dawn Niles stated she had been approached, that NECOG might be interested in Windham joining with them and they share animal control services. She asked Town Manager to keep in mind.

**5. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on August 28, 2013, and Special Meeting on August 6, 2013.**

A motion was made by Tom DeVivo to approve the minutes for the August 28 meeting as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously with Arnaldo Rivera abstaining. A

motion was made by Dawn Niles seconded by Lorraine McDevitt to approve the minutes for the August 6, 2013 special meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously with Arnaldo Rivera abstaining.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Providing Areas in Cemeteries for the Cremated.**

Chairman Krich invited Robert Sawyer to come forward.

He explained need for separate areas for persons who are cremated.

Tom DeVivo asked about flowers

Lorraine McDevitt suggested a vase on a post that would be easy to remove and reset.

Brad Wojick explained a handout of proposed cremated sections. He would develop areas using interest from the cemetery trust fund.

A motion was made by Dawn Niles to recommend to the Council that cremated sections be developed in the Windham Center and New Willimantic Cemeteries with funds from the cemetery trust fund interest and that there would be no permanent flowers or statues.

The motion was seconded by Lorraine McDevitt and passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Decorative Lighting on Main Street**

Scott Clairmont stated he had met that day with a vendor. No one from Thread City Development could make meeting.

Scott suggested changing banners on Main Street, explained vender had a very nice wreath that would look good on town hall.

A motion was made by Tom DeVivo to purchase the wreath. The motion was seconded By Lorraine McDevitt and passed unanimously.

**8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Dog Park.**

Scott Clairmont presented options to construct a dog park at Lauter Park or at Youngs Park. He reviewed need for waste containers, costs for fencing, grass verses stoned areas. He recommended issue be placed on hold until a Dog Park Association is formed to maintain a dog park. He stated there was a need for soccer fields and would like to see the non used base ball field at Lauter Park converted to soccer field(s).

A motion was made by Dawn Niles to add item 8a Conversion of Baseball Field at Lauter Park to soccer field(s). The motion was seconded by Lorraine McDevitt and passed unanimously.

**8A. Conversion of Baseball Field at Lauter Park to Soccer Fields.**

A motion was made by Dawn Niles to recommend to the full council that the baseball field at Lauter Park be converted to soccer field(s) and the soccer field at Shetucket Plains Park be rested for one year. The motion was seconded by Lorraine McDevitt and passed unanimously.

**9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Ordinance Regarding Truck Traffic In Residential Areas.**

Ordinances from several towns were reviewed. Tom DeVivo suggested it include school busses, boats, trailers, campers etc.

Joe Gardner is to work with the Town Attorney on a draft ordinance for the next meeting.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Creating an Ordinance Creating a Permanent Building Committee.**

Tom DeVivo discussed need and reasons for a permanent committee.

Arnaldo Rivera liked idea. Felt it was proactive verses reactive.

Committee decided to take no action.

The Town Manager was asked to weigh in on issue at next meeting.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Operation of the EOC During Storm Events.**

Town Manager Neal Beets gave an overview of when the EOC should be opened.

It comes down to a judgement call by the Town Manager.

Dawn Niles questioned why Town's was not opened during storms when the States was. She questioned why shelter was in Mansfield. She stressed Windham was a poor town.

Many residents do not have ability to get to Mansfield.

The town Manager explained State was moving to Red Cross operating shelters on a State regional model.

Arnaldo Rivera agreed with Dawn Niles that many Windham residents did not own cars to get to Mansfield.

Town Manager explained during recent snow storms Willimantic did not lose power.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Revising Section 2-84 of the Code of Ordinances.**

Town Engineer Joe Gardner and Town Attorney Rich Cody are to develop a draft for The next meeting.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Sidewalks on Route 195 from Ash Street to Lauter Park.**

Dawn Niles stated a sidewalk makes sense. The issue will be on next months agenda.

The property Owner advocating the sidewalks will be asked to attend.

**14. Discussion and Possible Action to Award Contract to Replace Remaining Windows in the Safety Complex.**

Town Engineer Joe Gardner presented a memo regarding bidding process.

A motion was made by Tom DeVivo to recommend to the full Council the award of the window replacement to New England Glass and Mirror in the amount of \$28,492.00.

The motion was seconded by Dawn Niles and passed unanimously

**15. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Leasing a Portion of Public Works.**

Public Works Superintendent Brad Wojick explained a contactor would be installing new electrical lines and poles in area for next two years. Firm is interested in leasing vacant areas at Public Works.

A motion was made by Tom DeVivo and Dawn Niles that a lease be drawn up by the Town Manager and brought to the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

**16. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Lorraine McDevitt to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Dawn Niles and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted  
Joseph Gardner  
Town Engineer