

Windham Community Organization
October 30, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Maureen Bell, Mary Boyer, Joyce Cumming, Kathy Jungermann, Imme Maurath, Ellen McDuffie, Carolyn Partridge and Barbara Jean Quinn.

Ellen opened the meeting and welcomed Barbara Jean Quinn as a new member of the WCO.

Joyce distributed minutes of the July 31, 2019 meeting electronically for review prior to the meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 31, 2019 meeting as submitted. Moved by Carolyn—unanimously approved.

Cindy was not able to attend the meeting but provided the monthly Treasurer's Report prior to the meeting. The beginning balance on July 31, 2019 was \$5,767.04; income for August and September was \$550; and expenses totaled \$1,920.44 for a balance of \$4,396.60 as of September 25, 2019. The September WCO meeting was cancelled and there was no activity in October, therefore the balance as of October 30, 2019 remains at \$4,396.60. (Note: the annual Treasurer's report for the year ending March 31, 2019 was not submitted.)

Brief discussion was held regarding the roll of tickets for the Chicken BBQ. Imme located a roll and will ask Cindy about using tickets at the upcoming Harvest Supper. Carolyn still has the ice cream leftover from the Ice Cream Social in her freezer locker.

Committee Reports:

- News & Notes – Ellen reported that articles are still coming in for the next issue. The Windham Elementary School spaghetti dinner had a good turnout and Mary took several photos of the event to submit for N&N. Carolyn noted that a new family has moved to town and is residing at the Windham Country House (Michael Simonds' rental property). Ellen suggested setting a standard meeting format for upcoming N&N meetings; this will be discussed at the next N&N meeting.
- Good Neighbors –Pat reported that no requests were received.

Ellen reported that residents are upset over the property tax increase and that a resident received an adjusted tax bill after late-filing of the homestead declaration which resulted in a substantial increase. Discussion followed on the interest rate of 1% applied on accounts delinquent as of November 1 and penalties which accrue beginning in January. Discussion followed re: confusion about forms to be filed and residents using turbo-tax. A suggestion was made to bring in an expert from AARP for discussion at a Town Meeting.

In response to a question regarding the increase in Special Education spending at Windham Elementary School, Carolyn explained that the Special Education expense was pre-paid for services to a pre-K student prior to the family moving to Brattleboro. She also noted that another pre-K student may qualify for Special Education.

New Business:

- Ellen proposed changing the time for WCO meetings in the hope of increasing attendance at meetings. A suggestion was made to change the meeting time to 5 p.m. and limit meetings to 1 hour (5 - 6 p.m.)

- Harvest Supper: Imme reported on the status of food items for the Harvest Supper on November 9. In addition to sweet breads, corn bread is being added to the menu this year. A suggestion was made to include the ice cream leftover from the Ice Cream Social. Jo-Jo will donate much of the food including ham, potatoes, squash, and salad ingredients. Imme reviewed the list of items needed and secured volunteers to provide food items as needed. Mary will not be available this year but will make the dressing ahead and leave it in the kitchen. The schedule for the day was reviewed: 11 a.m. at the Meeting House to prepare salad and scalloped potatoes for baking at home; return at 4 p.m. for final preparations before dinner begins at 5 p.m.
- Christmas cookie plates: Since the WCO will not meet at the end of November, the date for the December meeting was discussed in order to plan for the meeting, cookie plates and the Yankee swap. The next WCO meeting will be on December 11 at **5 p.m.** Because of the time required for the various activities, a suggestion was made to have members bring appetizers and finger foods that could be enjoyed during the evening. Kathy will check the supplies she has on hand such as cellophane, and will buy plates for cookies as needed. Receipts for reimbursement will be submitted.

Announcements were noted from the membership.

- A Special Town Meeting is planned for December 3, 2019 at 7 p.m. as a result of petitions filed to increase the Selectboard from 3 to 5 members, and to vote on all Town issues by Australian ballot. While the Selectboard recently appointed Peter Chamberlain to fill the vacancy on the Selectboard, the appointment is only valid until the next Town Meeting or Special Meeting. Therefore, his seat and those of two additional members will need to be voted on. Maureen is in the process of preparing the Warning for posting.
- Planning Commission Public Hearing on the 2020 Town Plan – November 12, 2019
- Monica Pryzperhart will present an update on the Community Values Mapping Project on November 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Conservation Commission meeting.
- Carolyn reported that Paul Costello will attend a community dinner on the Future of Windham though a date has not been determined.
- Steven L. Amsden passed away on October 24, 2019. A memorial service is being planned.
- The residence at 3492 Windham Hill Road will go up for auction on November 20 at 12:30 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Moved by Mary—unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Cumming
Secretary