

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
11 RYE STREET  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present:	Robert Maynard, Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Jason E. Bowsza Steven Dearborn and Dale Nelson (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)
Members Absent:	None
Others:	Kathleen Pippin, Paul Anderson, Dave Menard, Thomas Talamini, Rebecca Talamini, Melissa Maltese, Joe Sauerhoefer, Bill Loos, Peggy Hoffman, Leonard Norton, Charles Riggott, Steve Smith, Glenn Reichle, Randy Reichle, Sarah Reichle, John Burnham, Laurie Whitten, James Richards, Jerilyn Corso, Dave Roche, Al Floyd, Ed O'Brien and few others
Press:	Anthony Branciforte (Journal Inquirer)

**I. Call to Order**

First Selectman Robert Maynard called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m., in the East Windsor Town Hall.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone who were in attendance, stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Attendance**

Robert Maynard, First Selectman  
Richard P. Pippin, Jr., Deputy First Selectman  
Jason E. Bowsza, Selectman  
Steven Dearborn, Selectman  
Dale Nelson, Selectwoman

Mr. Bowsza commented that he would like to add an agenda item to this evening's meeting. He noted that in a Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of May 3, 2016 it the Board of Selectman approved an agreement of an Inter-Town Equipment Purchase between the Towns of Ellington, Somers and East Windsor of an asphalt hot box in

accordance with ICE Program Guidelines. He has spoken to the Town Attorney and he was told the agreement needed to be approved at a Town Meeting.

A motion was **MOVED** (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) to add Agenda Item No. 8 (H) Request for Town Counsel to Discuss the agreement of the Inter-Town Purchase Between Towns of Ellington, Somers and East Windsor of an asphalt hot box and to Refer to a Town Meeting.

A discussion was held. It was questioned how Mr. Bowsza was aware of the inter-town hot box agreement needed to be referred to a Town Meeting; however, the First Selectman was unaware as was the legal committee. Mr. Maynard questioned procedure. Mr. Maynard also questioned as to why this item had to be added to the agenda at this time as the agenda was posted last week and this is the first time he is being told this agenda item should be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Pippin commented that he believes this should be added to the agenda and to schedule a Town Meeting. Mr. Maynard inquired why it should be listed under unfinished business and Mr. Bowsza indicated it is unfinished business as it was on the agenda on May 3, 2016.

A vote was taken:

In Favor: J. Bowsza, D. Nelson, R. Pippin and S. Dearborn  
Opposed: None

**Motion Passed.**

Mr. Pippin then spoke about adding an additional item he wanted to discuss with the Board. It is an article in the *Journal Inquirer* recently about the Board of Finance election complaint. It was inquired why he would like to discuss and he indicated he would like to discuss this in public. He gave copies of the article to the Board Members.

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) and **PASSED** (4-0)(In Favor: R. Pippin, S. Dearborn, J. Bowsza and D. Nelson; Opposed: None; Abstain: None) to add Agenda Item No. 9 (D) Discussion of *Journal Inquirer* article entitled East Windsor Board of Finance Election Complaint Dismissed.

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Regular Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2016**

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) and **PASSED** (3-0-1) (In Favor: R. Pippin, S. Dearborn and D. Nelson, Opposed: None, Abstain: J. Bowsza) that the Board of Selectman approved the September 20, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

**V. Communications**

None.

**VI. Public Participation**

Mr. Dave Menard of 73 Miller Road, East Windsor addressed the Board. He indicated he asked the Board at the last meeting if they could find out why the Broad Brook Brewery was leaving town and Mr. Dearborn commented that he would speak to the owners and get some insight. Mr. Dearborn responded as he did speak to the owners of the brewery and they indicated to them that things between the Town Hall and the owners were not working out to well. The brewery outgrew their current location and were looking to build a new building in town, but unfortunately it did not work out. They have decided to move on and are now building a new location in Suffield, fully operational, including an outdoor patio. He was asked what "things" didn't work out and Mr. Dearborn declined to give more detail.

Mr. Glenn Reichle of 27 Harrington Road, East Windsor addressed the Board. He has a 20 year lease with the Town of East Windsor to lease land on Chamberlain Road and it has been brought to his attention that the Town is contemplating using this farmland for softball fields. He has been to the Board of Selectmen meetings three times, and this time he is very upset. He has cleared this land himself when the Town wanted to build a dog park, he was asked and then the Town wanted to build a skate park, he was asked and he was a good guy; he agreed. This time, he is not going to be so nice. He has eleven years left on the lease. Mr. Maynard asked if he could have a copy of the lease and Mr. Reichle refused. Mr. Reichle went onto say that he is supposed to be notified by registered mail if the Town plans on making any changes, he has not been notified. He happened to receive a phone call from the First Selectman's office yesterday and that is why he is attending this meeting. The Town is looking for property to accommodate a softball facility and they are looking for 30 acres. There are other parcels of land within the town that need to be cleared to use but they are looking at the land he leases and he cleared. He doesn't understand why he needs to come to the meetings and defend himself and he doesn't understand why the Town cannot locate the lease he has in his possession which was signed in 2007. Mr. Maynard commented that he is correct that he was not notified, as Mr. Maynard did not realize there was a 20 year lease. Mr. Reichle indicated he sat down in the Spring with Jennifer regarding the renewal of the terms of the lease and as a matter of fact, he was to meet with Jennifer and the First Selectman this past Friday but it was cancelled last minute and rescheduled to Monday, but then he was told that it would have to be done on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and then he was notified he may want to participate in the meeting this evening. He does not feel that is fair when he was anticipating to sign a lease on Friday, then again on Monday and then was told about this potential project. He feels he is in the dark. Mr. Maynard commented he was under the impression there was only a one year lease and not a 20 year lease. Mr. Reichle proclaimed he is a proud and passionate farmer and he grows food.

Mrs. Randy Reichle of 27 Harrington Road, East Windsor addressed the Board. She has emails to prove that the Town was aware of this project in August and September as the proposal is to construct twelve softball fields which will be in use every weekend from April to October. This town didn't want to put in a gun range in the town due to the noise and congestion it would cause, but they are willing to entertain a softball facility. The town will not gain revenue from this project as this land is used as farm land, not commercial use and will not receive tax revenue from this project. Windsorville Road is mess and all of the traffic that Windsorville Road will have to endure, will require maintenance and who will pay for the maintenance of that road. She is very disappointed. Furthermore, she believes that the lease they currently have, they have to be given one year notice to vacate the property. The proposed date for the softball fields is in the spring of 2017, which is only eight months away. This is poor businesses practices of the town. Mr. Maynard invited both Mr. and Mrs. Reichle to stay for the softball presentation which will be given later in the meeting. He was only aware of this proposal for two weeks and he believes the current lease indicates that the Town only has to give 60 days. He heard from the Town Planner two weeks ago and asked if they could present their proposal to the Board of Selectmen and he thought it would be a good idea. A brief conversation took place.

Mr. Paul Anderson of 89 Main Street, Broad Brook addressed the Board. He noted that it sounds like their might be a problem with agreements the Town is involved in and there should be some way of flagging properties which have agreements currently. Mr. Maynard indicated he has looked for the agreements and he is unable to locate them.

Ms. Sarah Reichle of 27 Harrington Road, East Windsor addressed the Board. She noted that the Town is bound by this lease as it still has eleven years remaining.

Mr. Dearborn inquired who is responsible for the leases and agreements stored in the Town Hall, which Department is responsible for those agreements. Ms. Nelson indicated there are several properties which the Town has agreements and/or leases, and she agrees with Mr. Anderson. Mr. Dearborn commented that if someone is interested in land which is currently under an agreement and/or lease, then the land could not be considered.

A brief discussion was held.

## **VII. Board and Commissions Resignations and Appointments**

**a. Resignations: None**

**b. Re-Appointments: Housing Authority, Elizabeth LeBorious (D),  
Regular Member for a term expiring October 1, 2021**

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Bowsza) and **PASSED** (4-0) (In favor: R. Pippin, J. Bowsza, D. Nelson and S. Dearborn, Opposed: None, Abstain: None) that the Board of Selectmen re-appoints Ms. Elizabeth LaBorious, Regular Member of the Housing Authority for a term expiring October 1, 2021.

**c. New Appointments: None**

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

**a. Parliamentary Procedures**

Mr. Maynard reminded everyone not to interrupt people when they have the floor and only to speak when recognized. This agenda item was not discussed at this meeting.

**b. Barber Hill School Updated**

Mr. Maynard indicated there will be a Town Meeting on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. to vote on the transaction between the Town and the Historical Society for the Barber Hill Schoolhouse and to move the Schoolhouse to Scantic Road Location.

**c. East Windsor Fire Protection Committee Report**

Mr. Maynard commented that he attended the meeting of the East Windsor Fire Protection Committee last week. All six options were discussed and eventually Committee have recommended to the Board of Selectman consider enlarging the Warehouse Point Fire District to absorb the Broad Brook Fire Department and cover the entire town. The next meeting will be more detailed as to the steps that need to be completed to establish one fire district. It was noted, the Board of Selectmen do not have vote if the district can move forward, it is not up the Board of Selectmen. A referendum vote would have to ultimately have to be done to expand the district.

A brief discussion was held.

**d. East Windsor's 250 Anniversary Commission Report**

Ms. Rebecca Talamini addressed the Board and indicate she did not have an update as the meeting will take place on Thursday at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. before the Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. She invited everyone to the meeting as it is open to the public.

**e. Discussion of South Road**

This agenda item was not discussed at this meeting.

**f. Discussion of Pond Street**

This agenda item was not discussed at this meeting.

**g. Broad Brook Mill Site Remediation**

This agenda item was not discussed at this meeting.

**h. Discuss the agreement of the Inter-Town Purchase between Towns of Ellington, Somers and East Windsor of an asphalt hot box and to Refer to a Town Meeting**

Mr. Bowsza indicated on May 3, 2016 the Board of Selectmen approved the Inter-Town Purchase between the Towns of Ellington, Somers and East Windsor to purchase an asphalt hot box. This agreement needs to be ratified by the public at a Town Meeting.

It was **MOVED** (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Pippin) and **PASSED** (4-0) (In favor: R. Pippin, J. Bowsza, D. Nelson and S. Dearborn, Opposed: None, Abstain: None) that the Board of Selectmen sends to a Town Meeting for consideration and approval the inter-local agreement between Ellington, Somers and East Windsor for the purchase of hot box trailer for road maintenance and repairs.

**IX. New Business**

**a. Discussion of Girls Fast Pitch Softball on Kogut Property**

Mr. David Roche of USSSA State Director Fastpitch CT/RI/MA addressed the Board. He commented that he was unaware of the potential problems with the site they were to discuss this evening and feels it is inappropriate to present his proposal until the issues are resolved.

Ms. Laurie Whitten, Town Planner, addressed the Board. She was approached by the gentlemen representing Fastpitch inquiring if the Town had any properties for lease. She thought the farmland leases were year to year leases as she does not have the leases. She suggested the gentlemen bring their proposals to the Board of Selectmen as they may be interested in their proposal. There are no specific plans and she apologized to Mr. and Mrs. Reichle as she thought it was a one year lease.

A brief discussion was held.

**b. Approval Supplemental Appropriation for Scout Hall Doors**

Mr. Maynard invited Mr. John Burnham, Mr. Al Floyd and Mr. Paul Anderson to discuss the supplemental appropriation for the Scout Hall doors. A meeting was held about a month and half ago with the First Selectman discussing the Scout Hall doors. The Town has a lease with the Scout Hall which stipulates all capital improvements to the building will be the responsibility of the Town. Mr. Maynard suggested the Scout Hall be invited to the Capital Improvement Committee meeting during the budget process to request monies for capital improvements of \$20,000 or more. At that meeting, Mr. Maynard was told the doors at the Scout Hall had to be replaced as the locks to the doors could not be repaired or replaced. He suggested an appropriation to cover the installation of the new doors. The cost of the doors was a little over \$10,000. Ms. Nelson inquired if the new doors were ADA compliant, which includes an automatic button to open the doors. She was told that the automatic button was not installed on the doors. Ms. Nelson was disappointed in this answer as she has been there when a disabled little girl had trouble getting into the building. Ms. Nelson also inquired if three bids were requested before the work was done, as this is policy. Mr. Maynard requested a motion to approve the supplemental appropriation. However, the Board has a few more questions before they would entertain such a motion. It was asked who installed the doors and why this was a problem that had to be fixed immediately. The company who installed the doors, installed the original doors when the building was built. The problem did not happen overnight and they have been repairing the doors as best as they could, but eventually, the doors and locks had to be replaced.

A motion was **MOVED** by Mr. Bowsza and **SECONDED** by Ms. Nelson to set this agenda item aside without action.

Mr. Maynard inquired what the motion on the floor meant. Mr. Bowsza commented that the motion on the floor means that no action will be taken and it cannot be brought before the Board at another time. Mr. Maynard remarked that means that the Board will not be able to vote on the supplemental appropriation. Mr. Bowsza indicated that was correct.

A lengthy discussion as held. The gentlemen from the Scout Hall were told they did not go through the appropriate procedures to replace the doors and then to come to the Board after the fact was not procedure and all departments must go through the process for any capital projects. This request will have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and then send to the Board of Finance for approval and eventually a Town Meeting.

A vote was taken:

In Favor: J. Bowsza and D. Nelson  
Opposed: S. Dearborn, R. Pippin and R. Maynard

**Motion fails.**

Mr. Bowsza indicated the reason he is voting the way he is voting, is that he doesn't want to set a precedent to approve an appropriation after the fact and the procedural process was not followed.

A motion was **MOVED** by Mr. Pippin and **SECONDED** by Mr. Dearborn that the Board of Selectmen approves and appropriates an amount of \$10,460.17 to reimburse Scout Hall for the replacement of the main entry doors and to send the request to the Board of Finance for their approval, and if approved by the Board of Finance, to move the appropriation to a Town Meeting.

A discussion was held.

A vote was taken:

In Favor: S. Dearborn, R. Pippin and R. Maynard  
Opposed: J. Bowsza and D. Nelson

**Motion passes.**

**c. Approval of Tax Refunds**

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) and **PASSED** (4-0) (In Favor: J. Bowsza, S. Dearborn, D. Nelson and R. Pippin, Opposed: None, Abstain: None) that the Board of Selectmen approves the tax refunds in the amount of \$2,264.42 pursuant to the tax collector's request dated September 30, 2016.

**d. Discussion of *Journal Inquirer* article entitled "East Windsor Board of Finance Election Complaint Dismissed"**

Mr. Pippin is concerned this decision could have gone the other way and the Town would have been in trouble. Mr. Bowsza remarked the complaint stemmed from a Board of Finance appointment of a Board of Finance alternate member and it violated minority representation because it put two Republican alternates on the Board. The issue he has with the complaint is that the Board Members were not told about the pending complaint as they were exposed.

A brief discussion was held.



**X. Selectmen Comments and Reports**

**a. Dale Nelson**

See Exhibit A attached hereto.

**b. Richard Pippin, Jr.**

Mr. Pippin mentioned briefly the recent meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Finance.

**c. Steven Dearborn**

Mr. Dearborn commented about Community Day which was recently held. The parade was fun but he was a little disappointed as there were not many people who attended the parade or the event. He was upset that the Warehouse Point Fire Department did not participate in the parade but the Broad Brook Fire Department did attend.

**d. Jason E. Bowsza**

See Exhibit B attached hereto.

**e. Robert Maynard**

Mr. Maynard indicated that he had a request from Mr. Bowsza to discuss the grant about the fruit trees. The Town has applied for the grant and it has been awarded to the Town. He is not sure how many trees will be purchased. He also had a question for an update on Pond Road. Mr. Maynard mentioned this will be discussed in executive session as the contract negotiations are underway. In regards to South Road collection of rents, he noted the Housing Authority is not associated with South Road. He is working with Linda Collins to resolve the unpaid rents by January 1, 2017.

**XI. Public Participation**

Mr. Dave Menard, 73 Miller Road addressed the Board. He had a question about all public buildings being ADA compliant and shouldn't the supplier/installer of the doors mention the mandates of having public buildings ADA compliant.

Mr. Paul Anderson of 89 Main Street, Broad Brook addressed the Board. He commented about Community Day. His wife was unaware a parade even happened as there was no noise. A parade should be loud. He would like Community Day to be

bigger and have more townspeople attend. More advertising should be done to promote to the event. Secondly, he discussed CIP Committee and he told Mr. Joe Sauerhoefer he would bring it up at the Board of Selectmen meeting that he overworked and underpaid.

Mr. Jim Richards of 27 Pleasant Street addressed the Board. In regards to Community Day, the committee only had \$2,000 to put on the event and asked many times to have the event motioned on the website, but it was never posted. A full page ad was placed in the *Reminder Newspaper*. With a Committee of only five members, he thinks it was done very well. He invites anyone to join the next committee to help plan and organize the next Community Day. He thanked the police department, parks and recreation, public works and fire departments for all of their assistance with the event held this year. He agrees with Mr. Bowsza in regards to the Scout Hall doors appropriation and the concerns that departments spend money which are not appropriated and they do not go through the proper channels to obtain approval for funding a project.

Ms. Laurie Whitten, Town Planner, addressed the Board. She wanted to comment on the Broad Brook Brewery leaving the town. She had spoken to the owners of the Broad Brook Brewery on many occasions in an attempt to find the appropriate location for their business. She cannot force businesses to purchase properties they are not interested in.

Mr. Steve Smith addressed the Board. He wanted to thank Jason for looking out for the taxpayers when he voted for the Scout Hall door supplemental appropriation of \$10,000. They did not follow the proper procedure and this is a problem and why departments are in the hole. He also mentioned the softball facility which he believes would be a boost for small businesses in the town. Lastly, he mentioned the Board of Education and how many children, approximately one-third, are leaving the district to go to school in other districts and CREC schools. This is very concerning to him.

Ms. Kathy Pippin of Woolham Road addressed the Board. She is a member of the Board of Finance and she agrees with Mr. Richards and believes departments should not come to the Board looking for supplemental appropriations after the fact. They need to cut it out!

Mr. Ed O'Brien of 13 Norton Road addressed the Board. He wanted an update on the Pond Road development. Mr. Maynard indicated he could not discuss this in public as the Town is in negotiations with Connecticut Water Company and it is a topic in the executive session this evening.

Ms. Jerilyn Corso of 23 Lindsey Lane addressed the Board. She is a member of the Board of Finance and she also feels that there is a process that has to be followed and it is not fair to the other departments if that process is not followed. She also mentioned other agenda items which were discussed in regards to the softball fields

and election complaints. There is turmoil in the town which can be avoided if there was open communication.

Mr. Bill Loos of Melrose Road addressed the Board. He had a suggestion of another property which may be used for the softball fields on Plantation Road. It was a farm in the 1930s and it is about 33 acres. Ms. Whitten indicated she would look into it.

Mr. Thomas Talamini addressed the Board. He suggested the Scout Hall might want to consult with the Building Committee when a project is needed to be done. This might be another channel to discuss the project and figure out funding for same. He also suggested the Scout Hall should put in their request to CIP for the ADA automatic doors.

## **XII. Executive Session**

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Nelson) and **PASSED** (4-0) (In favor: D. Nelson, R. Pippin, S. Dearborn and J. Bowsza, Opposed: None, Abstain: None) that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to include Mr. Leonard Norton.


Executive Session ended at 10:11 p.m.

It was **MOVED** (Bowsza) and **SECONDED** (Pippin) and **PASSED** (4-0) (In favor: D. Nelson, R. Pippin, S. Dearborn and J. Bowsza, Opposed: None; Abstain: None) that the Board of Selectmen recommends to the Board of Finance that they fund a Maintainer -2 position in the Public Works Department.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Dearborn) and **PASSED** (4-0) (In favor: D. Nelson, S. Dearborn, R. Pippin and J. Bowsza, Opposed: None, Abstain: None) that the Board of Selectmen adjourn the Board of Selectmen October 4, 2016 Regular Meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary

**EXHIBIT A**

9/26/16 WHPFD – Special Meeting 7:00

Incentive program – Dean stated due to lower volunteer support we need to increase the stipend program. Remove certain compensation lines as long as all fire fighters report to at least 25% of the calls. Chief Barton monitors the quarters; he and Rich Austin will put their heads together to present a better plan. Chief stated they hit 300 calls today. Roof – do not have the money to replace, so they decided to patch at approximately \$13,000. 105/district expansion – special act only allows the district to borrow \$25,000. Lou Flynn does not like the idea that “the president of the commission” may have more power than the rest of the commissioners. The district’s attorney, Landolina, will have this worded to allow the same power for all members of the district. One concern is that WHPFD will give away some control if we go to the Town Fire District. Dean stated that the District needs to show a track record of how taxes were spent before we can get BB on board.

9/27/16 CIP – BBFD 5:30

BBFD – need a replacement of the expedition (duty car); they have money in C&R only requesting \$36,000. Police Department - #1 must go back to the 3 cars this year and 2 the next year, #2 NexGen – this is software that assists the officers with reports and will update as required (this could be split ½ this year and ½ next year budget), #3 opened sided car port for the “line patrol cars”. This will keep snow, heat, rain off the vehicles (poles with have electric plugs).

9/28/16 BOE 7:30

Attendance - noted not at the meeting are Randi Reichle and Patti Nelson. Added agenda item is Patti Nelson. Noted in the approved minutes is an executive session motion to amend the superintendent’s contract to July 2011 to include the following – contract extended to 6/30/2019, 3.5 % increase in salary, 25 telecommute/work days, \$ 3,000 stipend for the completion of the BBES addition (I have the minutes if you are interested). Modular project update the 30 day C. O. is upon us, #1 issue is that the connector to the 10 unit is interested to a window, #2 safety railings on the north side of the building and #3 the hydro seeding does not seem deep enough. Community Partnership Award can be given to an individual or business and could be self nominated. Dr DeBarge discussed the Smarter Balance Assessment Results for 2015-16. – CMT overview The Alliance grant can not sign off until the grease trap in the kitchen is fixed. Mr. Kelleher discussed the Unpaid Experimental Learning Program. “This will allow students to gain meaningful and realistic experiences they won’t normally be able to obtain”, students have to apply and be accepted (there is no financial gain for the student). EWMS roof replacement project has been approved by a town meeting, now would like the town to look at solar panels with a 7 year pay back – this is a \$900,000 project. Dr Kane announced her retirement as of 10/31/17; Dr DeBarge will be her replacement.

10/2/16 WHPFD 700 – did not attend

Opinion – did the building committee receive a 3K stipend or Roger Baker?? A 3.5 % increase in salary for the superintendent? Patti Nelson stepping back. It does make you think...

## EXHIBIT B

### Selectmen's Report - October 4, 2016

On September 27, the Planning and Zoning Commission met and discussed a number of topics. They delayed action on a request to release a performance bond for Mercury Fuel for erosion control pending further information. This is likely to be acted on next meeting.

There was also an application for a re-subdivision of a property on Phelps Road. A neighbor spoke strongly against the proposal, because he has concerns that the property will become another parking lot for Southern Auto. The concerned neighbor also pointed out that there is a disagreement between the town's property survey and the property owner's survey. The neighbors were also concerned about the impact on their property from new sewer connections.

USA Hauling is also expanding into 3 and 5 Shoham Road, and will be adding truck sales, additional parking, natural gas fueling for fleet vehicles, construction of car ports and include solar panels at both parcels.

Dri-Air Industries, located in the industrial park, is applying for site approval to construct a 6,100 sq. ft. addition. The commission granted the approval. It's great to see business continue to grow in East Windsor.

Some unfortunate news that has been circulating are plans for Broad Brook Brewing Company to leave town. From what I've heard, the attorney for the BBBC has said this is directly related to how they've been treated by the town pertaining to building inspections. It is really too bad that the Town didn't do more to help a popular local business survive and thrive here.

With that in mind, and because we've had no such update for nearly a year, I'm asking the first selectmen to provide aren't to the Board of Selectmen detailing zoning enforcement complaints and actions that have taken place over the last year.

I try hard to make time to meet with any resident who has a concern that they'd like to discuss. Over the last few weeks I've met with several, about different topics. Bill Syme and I met with some school parents who have a number of concerns about things happening within the school district. They were concerned about student retention, promoting successes and improvements within the district to encourage students to stay, creating a more welcoming school environment for parents, and implementing rigorous hiring practices to ensure that we have the best administrators available. This begins with insisting on an open, transparent and inclusive process to select the next superintendent. Surely the final selection will only be strengthened by a competitive application process.

This past weekend, a forum was held in Ellington for area residents who may be affected by the crumbling foundation issue. Experts from Canada, who have been combatting the same issue in their country, shared their experiences and stressed the need for local and state officials to notify potentially affected homeowners. We've discussed this several times, and I continue to urge this board to reconsider its decision NOT to share all the information we have with our constituents. Sharing information will not cause a panic.

That will happen anyway. We owe it to our constituents to communicate with them however we can, including direct mail to the homes that may be affected.

I will not be at the Town Meeting Thursday night due to a work commitment. We have repeatedly asked that town meetings be held on the same nights as Selectmen's meetings, as they have been done for years, but that request continues not to be honored. I do want to say that I am strongly in favor of the proposal to relocate the Barber Hill School from where it is to the East Windsor Historical Society. This is really the only option to preserve this property. If we delay, the school will be destroyed by either the weather or a demolition order. I strongly encourage passage of this item.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza  
Selectman