

Winthrop Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 2, 2012 at 7 p.m.
Town Office

Chairman Cookson brought the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Attendance: Chairman Kevin Cookson, Councilors Fuller, Buck Sr, Jenkins, Lattin, Currier were present with the Town Manager Woolston. Councilor Caprara was absent.

Ordered that the Winthrop Town Council meet to consider the following items:

- Chairman Cookson presented Mr John Mitchell a plaque containing the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, John Mitchell came to the service of the Town of Winthrop, January 1, 2003 as an active member of the Winthrop School Board and

WHEREAS, His accomplishments and contributions to the well being and effective education of Winthrop's youth were recognized through his appointment as the Vice Chairman, Winthrop School Board on January 5, 2005 and

WHEREAS, His use of his increased scope of responsibility and corporate knowledge gained him further recognition as a problem solver and able negotiator and

WHEREAS, He continued his winning ways and the forward progress of the Winthrop School System as the Chairman of the School Board on September 6, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEVIN COOKSON, on behalf of the Winthrop Town Council and the Town of Winthrop, Maine do hereby recognize John Mitchell for his distinguished service to the community during these many years. His unique contributions to the education of Winthrop's youth and the strong relationship he forged with the Winthrop Town Council established the highest standards of performance for future school board members. He completes his latest term of service with the heartfelt thanks of the Winthrop Town Council on behalf of the entire town.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Winthrop to be affixed this 2nd day of January, 2012.

Signed: Kevin Cookson, Chairman Winthrop Town Council

Chairman Cookson presented the 2011 Winthrop Spirit of America award to Ms Patrice Putman for her work with the comprehensive plan and the execution of the comprehensive plan and to Mr Craig Hickman for his efforts to feed those in the town without food.

The following newly elected officials were sworn in:

Town Council	Library Trustees
Sarah Fuller	Laurie Graves
Jennifer Currier	

Election of Town Council Chair, Vice-Chair - Councilor Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Councilor Buck to elect Kevin Cookson Chairman, Sarah Fuller Vice Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve the Minutes of December 5, 2011 - Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Lattin and modified by Councilor Jenkins to approve the December 5, 2011 minutes with the change that the meeting minutes approval vote Councilor Rheaume abstained from was the November 14, meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The December 5 meeting minutes were changed accordingly.

- Item # 1 Council Appointments - Councilor Buck made a motion, seconded by Councilor Fuller to approved the Council Appointments. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Item # 2 Chairman Appointments - Chairman Cookson made the following appointments:

- Appointment Committee
 - Chairwoman Jenkins, Councilors Buck and Fuller members
- Finance Committee
 - Chairman Lattin, Councilors Caprara and Currier members
- WKEDA representative will be Councilor Jenkins
- Chamber Of Commerce representative will be Councilor Fuller

- Item # 3 Town Manager Appointments - Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to approve the Town Manager's Appointments. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Item #4 Library fundraising update - Councilor Fuller gave a short update on the library addition fundraising activities. The steering committee and fundraising committee are organizing fundraising training. The training is coming soon. There will be about \$100k put into the library addition fund from the sale of the Morrill Home. More to follow.

- Item #5 Comprehensive Plan Implementation update - Councilor comments about this plan included the Winthrop Planning Board meeting with the implementation committee went well and focused on the Royal Street corridor and how to make the necessary changes. The planning board has begun work to recommend the actually work/steps that need to be taken to follow the process. Some land owners are working with the planning board and the implementation committee to bring those ideas to fruition. The implementation committee will meet with the planning board to track the necessary zoning changes. Ms Putman added remarks on the work being done to popularize playing outside and moving towards Winthrop's Recreational Economy through various banners around the town to let the public know about the effort. There are also 30 kids that marched in the recent parade to popularize the idea of playing outside. We are making progress with small inexpensive steps. Jay Lindsey is also moving forward in those regards.

- Item #6 Town donation to construction of ski shed - After a short discussion about the work being done by Mr Lindsey to build the shed. Woolston remarked that the building would be used as a snack shack during athletic events and will also be used to wax skiis to avoid having to use someone's house. Councilor Fuller added that there may be equipment lending of snowshoes and skiis by the local community. Councilor Fuller made a motion, Councilor Jenkins seconded to donate \$500 dollars to the shed's construction. The motion was passed unanimously.

Manager's Report -

- Solar project. The Power Company has not yet given Woolston a final feasibility study which is why they were not on the agenda tonight. Councilor Jenkins remarked that WKEDA was also drafting a Request for Proposal. Mr Dick Dyer is the point of contact for this initiative.
- Mr Carl Swanson asked about whether the Morrill house was made available for sale. Woolston explained that the trustees (Mr Jim Harrington and Mrs Ida Ward) had a buyer and would be putting about \$100k dollars into the Library addition fund as a result of the sale of the house and other monies left in the trust fund.
- Woolston asked for approval to look into closing Main Street during the upcoming Art Show. He suggested it would give the vendors more room, and would foster walking in town. Chairman Cookson remarked that the proposal would have to come from the Chief of the Police Department, the business guild, or the Town Manager. He was given the ok to do the research into the order and come back to the council with a proposal.
- So far this year, it has been an easy winter.
- Woolston explained the need to take the elm in front of the elementary school and that it was taken down by the Public Works and Mr Bob Doyle.
- Councilor Buck asked about the status of the 1 - ton truck. The truck is in Skowhegan at the time. Mr Matt Burnham visited the HP Fairfield facility in Skowhegan and approved the control positioning.
- Councilor Buck also asked about what would become of the wood from the tree. Woolston thought the Public Works would get it ready for use by the town. After the meeting, he talked to Mr Burnham about the tree's disposition. Mr Burnham talked to Mr Bob Doyle about the wood in the tree. Mr Doyle said that the wood would not be any better than Poplar and recommended against using it for fire wood. The tree was subsequently put in a fill site at the Glenside Cemetery.

Other business - Councilor Jenkins remarked that the green committee is researching a Transition Town concept. This is a model that is being implemented worldwide. It is based on the concept of growing a town's self-sufficiency, including energy savings and conservation of natural resources. She will have more information about this at the next council meeting.

- Item # 7 - Executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 401 - Tax Abatement -
 Councilor Fuller made the motion, seconded by Councilor Lattin that the council enter an executive session in accordance with 1 MRSA, Section 401 - Tax Abatement. The council entered the executive session at 7:38 pm and came out of the executive session at 7: 46 pm. Councilor Buck made a motion, and Councilor Jenkins seconded that the council approve the tax abatement request. The motion was passed unanimously.

Councilor Fuller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Jenkins to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously at 7:48 pm.