

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
April 13, 2022

HYBRID MEETING

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.
Public: Carole Matteo, Michelle Gorra, Dan Sherr, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Andrew Carron.
Press: Linda Zukauskas – VOICES.

Call to Order: First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 31, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications:

- **Letter from Valerie Truesdell re: Church Street/Route 45 intersection:** Ms. Truesdell wrote to the Selectmen expressing her concern regarding the unsafe conditions at the intersection of Church St. and Route 45 in New Preston Village. Several other residents of New Preston have also voiced concern about the poor site line caused by cars parking on the sidewalk – making it nearly impossible to enter Route 45 from Church Street safely. Jim Brinton explained, that although as First Selectman, he is the Town's parking authority, according to the State DOT he has no authority on a State road. He has requested, several times, a study be done and action taken. He has been told that it will happen, however it may take months. In the meantime, Jim has spoken with the tenants and or shopkeepers asking them not to park on the sidewalk – mostly to no avail. Until the problem is resolved, Jim recommended residents exit via Church Street to New Preston Hill Road.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointments to the ARPA Advisory Committee: Motion:** To appoint Andrew Carron, Janet Hill, Jon Metcalf, Phyllis Allen, Shannon Kozak, Liz Peterson and Dan Sherr to the ARPA Advisory Committee. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Jim explained that the Committee will act as a clearing house for requests from the ARPA Fund, will forward them to the Board of Selectmen which, if approved, will forward to the Board of Finance, Town Auditor and Attorney. Once reviewed, if the requests meet the required criteria they will be sent to a Town Meeting for final approval. The Committee will remain in effect until 2026. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointments to The Fiberoptic Advisory Committee: Motion:** To appoint Ted Bent, Rudy Montgelas, Jeff Miller and Michelle Gorra to the Fiberoptic Committee. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Jim explained that the Committee will examine the viability and process of bringing Fiberoptics to Washington. The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported on the following:

- **Bridge Work Update:** As reported at the last meeting, the *Whittlesey Road Bridge* project is delayed due to the delay in procuring the steel by the contractors. It has been determined that

before work can begin on the *Rabbit Hill Road Bridge*, it will be necessary to remove several trees. Jim will meet with residents, the engineer and construction company Monday, April 18th to discuss what needs to happen going forward. Jim will provide an update at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Connecticut Green Bank:** Jay Hubelbank reported that the Town Attorney is reviewing the necessary paperwork to proceed with the feasibility study to install solar panels on the Depot Firehouse.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution: Small Cities Program: Motion:** To adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93 -3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Washington make application to the State for up to \$1,000,000.00 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
 2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Washington in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Washington. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Jim Brinton explained that the application submitted last year on behalf of the Washington Community Housing Trust for improvements at Dodge Farm was not granted, the Town is re-submitting the application again. The same study, paperwork, etc. can be used. Michelle Gorra explained that this application will also include letters of support from the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Housing Commissions and the Northwest Regional Housing Commission. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Earth Day Celebration:** The Town and the Washington Environmental Council will be holding Earth Day Celebrations and activities on Saturday, April 23rd. More details can be found on the

Environmental Council's website. Jim Brinton encouraged residents to participate particularly by joining the roadside cleanup initiative.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:51p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant