

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 24, 2020**

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

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.

Public: Dan Sherr, Leslie Anderson, Jean Kenney, Bob Papsin, Joan Lodsins, Susan Branson, Simon Metz.

Press: Linda Zukauskas-VOICES.

Call to Order: First Selectman James Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Tony Bedini from the Inland Wetlands Commission:** Tony has submitted a letter of resignation from the Inland Wetlands Commission citing to physical limitations. The Selectmen accepted his resignation with expressions of deep gratitude for the countless hours he has given. Inland Wetlands Chairman, Bob Papsin, submitted a letter expressing his thanks for Tony's invaluable knowledge and experience.
- **Appointment of Larry Gendron as a full member of the Inland Wetlands Commission: Motion:** To appoint Larry Gendron as a full member of the Inland Wetlands Commission (moving up from an alternate) until 6/30/22. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: This appointment was recommended by the Commission Chair and supported by both the Republican and Democratic Town Committees. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- **Transfer Station:** Costs associated with running of the Transfer Station have steadily been increasing due to hauling charges, and increases in recycling and solid waste disposal fees. Jim suggested the Selectmen begin discussion of extending Invitations to Bid for the various components of running the Transfer Station and to consider the possibility of instituting a yearly fee for residents.
- **COVID-19:** Jim explained that looking at numbers on the State's website can be confusing due to their listing cumulative totals. There has been a surge in cases and hospitalizations in Litchfield County. Currently there are 4 active cases in Town. Numbers are expected to increase due to the numbers of people traveling Thanksgiving weekend. COVID testing site locations can be found on the State's website. Once the vaccine is approved and ready for distribution, the Town will follow State guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **WiFi in the Depot:** Jay Hubelbank reported that a code may become available that will make it easier for people who are using the WiFi in the Depot to connect to the Town's website. More information will be made available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of leaf blowers:** Jim Brinton explained he had been contacted by residents who are concerned about the noise created by gas powered yard equipment; i.e. leaf blowers, chain saws, etc. especially at this time of year with fall cleanups occurring. Visitors Jean Kenney and Simon Metz inquired about the possibility of having a noise ordinance that could perhaps regulate the decibels (used to measure sound levels), days and/or hours when use of the equipment could be prohibited, etc. Jim has inquired as to what other Towns may or may not do. The State DEEP ultimately needs to approve a noise ordinance prior to the Town's approval. Discussion included the pros and cons of limiting contractors' ability to work when weather allows, working people who need to use the weekends for this type of work, etc. The Selectmen agreed to discuss further.

Visitors:

- **Leslie Anderson** inquired about repairing a section of guardrail on Nettleton Hollow Road. Jim offered to bring it to the attention of Highway Director, Kevin Smith.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 5:56p.m. re: discussion of a real estate matter. They re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:16p.m. with no action taken.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:16p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sargeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant