

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
May 13, 2021**

Meeting held via video conferencing.

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

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

Public: Susan Branson, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Dan Sherr, Chris Charles, Susan Smith, Edwin Matthews.

Press: Linda Zukauskas – VOICES.

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

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 29, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Communications: The following thank you note was received:

- 71 Popple Swamp Road
Washington Depot, CT 06794
May 5, 2021
Board of Selectmen
Town of Washington
Gentlemen:

Just a note to say how much the Whitehead family appreciates the Proclamation from the Board of Selectmen recognizing May 2, 2021, as Frances C. Whitehead Day that was presented to her by Jim Brinton during her 105th birthday celebration. It is a moment that will long be remembered.

Sincerely,
Edwin & Marjie Whitehead
Howard & Susan (Whitehead) Rood
Nancy (Whitehead) Pickett

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Christina Fernandez-O'Toole from the Zoning Commission:** Christina submitted her resignation as an alternate on the Zoning Commission as she will be moving from town. The Selectmen accepted Christina's resignation with gratitude for her time served.

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

- **Numbers of residents vaccinated** are very good, however, there is still a good number who are not vaccinated. Jim is urging all to get vaccinated and suggested if they have any concerns, they should check with their physicians. New Milford continues to hold vaccination clinics. There will be a clinic this Saturday that will now be open for 12-16 year olds. An appeal for more volunteers to work at the clinics has been put out.
- **Speeding on Town roads:** There is an increasing number of complaints regarding speeding on Town Roads. Jim has spoken with Resident Trooper Matt Costella requesting rotating patrols,

moving flashing speed signs to different areas of Town and to increase enforcement by ticketing if necessary. **Motion:** To reduce the speed limit on Tunnel Road from 15 mph to 10 mph. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: Due to the number of walkers, horseback riders, and speeders, this is being done to improve safety. This has been discussed with Steep Rock as well. Work on the Tunnel Road bridge will also be occurring in coming months.

- **Re-opening of Town Hall:** Town Hall will open to the public on June 1st. Protocols will be established which will include having an attendant at the front door, allowing only one visitor in any particular office at a time (additional visitors will be allowed to wait in the Main Hall socially distanced). Masks will remain a requirement. Jim has met with all the staff to review the plan.
- **Board and Commission meetings in person:** With the opening of Town Hall and new State and CDC guidelines, the Selectmen discussed the possibility of holding meetings in person again. Dean Sarjeant has been working on installing an “owl” camera in the conference room which will allow for hybrid meetings – some attending in person, others by zoom if they prefer. More details on this will be forthcoming.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Golf Course Road:** Jim has met with members of the Washington Club as well as Highway Director, Kevin Smith to discuss the Town’s taking over the road which is presently owned by the Club. According to the original deed, the Club is bound to maintain the road to a certain level. It has deteriorated to a point where the cost to the to make the necessary improvements would be astronomical for the Town. The Town may be willing to assist with some winter maintenance and refer them to contractors used by the Town.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Shepaug Rive Update-Edwin Matthews:** Edwin attended this evening’s meeting to discuss the Shepaug River and the Agreement between the towns of Roxbury, Washington, the Steep Rock Association, the Roxbury Land Trust and the City of Waterbury. The supply of water released by Waterbury has been declining – contributing to conservation issues and waste. Despite audits, oversights by DEEP, Health Departments, etc., discrepancies and inadequacies continue. With the hiring of a new Director of the Water Department in Waterbury, the River Association feels strongly that a Water Conservation Consultant needs to be hired. It is requesting that Roxbury, Washington, Steep Rock and the Roxbury Land Trust each contribute \$10,000 for this consultant. Edwin reminded the Selectmen that as the Town entered into this agreement, it too has rights and obligations to make certain it is being upheld. Following discussion, the Selectmen requested another meeting with Edwin and members of the River Association to discuss further. The Selectmen thanked Edwin for his presentation and dedication to the River.
- **Tour of the Litchfield Hills Bike Tour:** This annual event will once again be occurring in late August. Jim has reviewed the route through Washington with Resident Trooper Matt Costella
- **Transfer Station fees:** Discussion tabled to a later date.

Visitors: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion:** To enter into Executive Session at 6:40p.m. to discuss a legal matter. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board at 6:55p.m. with no action taken in Executive Session.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:55p.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