

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
July 22, 2021

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

**Present:** First Selectman Jim Brinton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant

**Public:** Sheila Anson, Chris Charles, Susan Smith, **Wayne Hileman**

**Motion:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: New Preston sidewalks. The motion passed unanimously

**Call to Order:** First Selectmen Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** First Selectmen Jim Brinton made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Jay seconded, all in favor.

**Communications:**

- **Letter from Philip Farmer re: the former Wykeham Rise School-**  
(See attached)

Wykeham Rise is now in remains and is now attracting groups of people as a spot to drink/ do drugs.

- The way this structure is now poses as a danger to first responders if there was ever to be an emergency at that location.
- The town should have the remains of Wykeham Rise taken care.
- Town will have a conversation with the town attorney and talk about the options of demolishing it.

**Appointments/ Resignations:**

First Selectmen Jim Brinton made a motion to appoint- Dean Sarjeant seconded motion, all in favor.

- **Appointment of Judith Gorra to the Housing Commission until 1/1/23.**
- **Appointment of Jennifer Bogue as an alternate on the Inland Wetlands**
- **Commission until 6/30/22.**
- **Appointment of Valerie Anderson as an alternate on the Zoning**
- **Commission until the next Municipal Election for the term that expires**
- **11/23.**
- **Appointment of Catherine Sweeney as an alternate on the Zoning Board of**
- **Appeals until the next Municipal Election for the term that expires 11/23.**

### **First Selectman's Report:**

- Trooper Costella has been promoted to Sarjeant and has been transferred out of Washington. Trooper Steve Kieltyka is the interim resident state trooper until a new trooper has been assigned to Washington. There are three candidates who will be interviewed by Jim but it will be up to the State Police to make the final decision.
- Recently filled the Parks and Rec position- Connie Chapin has filled the position and has already started, we're all excited to welcome her on board.
- Have received 3 applications for the Fire Marshall position, will have this posting up until the 29<sup>th</sup>
- Interviewed 2 candidates for the Enforcement Officers position, they have found a great fit with one candidate and would like to set up a special board meeting
- First Selectmen Jim Brinton made a motion to award- Yield Industries LLC for the sidewalk project. This project has been budgeted for, and the time line will be: As convenient as we can. Possible start date is late August, early September (2 weeks) Jay Hubelbank seconded the motion, all in favor.

**Old Business:** None at this time

### **New Business:**

- **Discussion with Planning Commission Chairman, Wayne Hileman re: 2023 POCD.**  
Planning commission is starting work-The plan is to update the existing plan since people are happy with it.
- Reaching out to people in town to see what's on their minds- what needs changing, and what doesn't.
- Ongoing issue has been Housing in town, would like to find more solutions about the housing issues we face.  
In future will add the POCD to the agenda every month.
- **☑ Scheduling a Public Information Meeting Re: the use of Cannabis in Washington-** First Selectmen Jim Brinton made a motion to schedule a public information meeting re: the use of cannabis for **August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00**, Dean Sarjeant seconded, all in favor.

**Visitors:** Chris Charles, Susan Smith

### **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:25 to discuss legal and personnel matters. By Jim Brinton seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Jim Brinton at 7:02 to adjourn meeting, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda K. Reale  
Selectmen's Assistant.

Philip M. Farmer

7-12-21

Board of Selectman  
Town of Washington  
Washington, CT 06794

RECEIVED  
JUL 14 2021  
TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Dear Selectmen:

Fifty four months ago, or four and a half years ago, the former Wykeham Rise School a/k/a The Swiss Hospitality Institute burned. The carcasses of that fire are still there. The other buildings have fallen into severe disrepair as well. Together they are an ugly eyesore. Together they are what is called and "attractive nuisance" inviting various people to gather there and drink or do drugs.

As a former Board member of both the Wykeham Rise School and the SHI, I am very troubled by the overall condition of the property. We Board members tried very hard to sell the property to institutions and people that would maintain this property as a working, functional, asset for the community of Washington.


What has devolved there as stated above is an ugly eyesore. It is also a tremendous liability for the current owners and potentially for the Town of Washington. Should someone have an overdose there, emergency responders would not be able to access the property due to fallen trees in the driveway and other problems in and around the buildings.

The fire at this site and resulting neglect is a tragedy. I recommend that that the Selectmen take further action to force the removal of all the buildings before some other tragedy happens there. If the current owners are not willing or able to address this problem, I suggest that the Town of Washington undertake this demolition and record a priority lien on the property's land records.

I would like one of the Selectmen to read this letter into the next regular meeting records and for all of you to discuss with legal counsel what steps can and will be taken.

Thank you for your Consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Philip M. Farmer

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