

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
March 16, 2023**

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: Andrew Carron, Margaret Field, Michelle Gorra, Sean Hayden, Joan Lodsins, Carole Matteo, Bob Papsin, Ray Reich, Dan Sherr, Susan Smith, Perry Stafford

Press: Linda Zukauskas - VOICES

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

Motion: To add subsequent business not already on the agenda by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Housing Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 2, 2023 meeting of the Board of Selectmen by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignation: None

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

- **Shepaug Valley High Boys Basketball:** For the first time in forty years, the Shepaug Valley High Boys Basketball team will be playing in the CIAC State Finals against Windsor Locks High School! The game is scheduled for 12:30 PM on Saturday, March 18th at Mohegan Sun. Go Spartans!
- **Tunnel Road Bridge in Steep Rock Preserve:** The bridge will be replaced and the expected time frame is April 1st through November 15th. No entrance will be available off River Road to Tunnel Road. Spring Hill Road is open with limited use and no horse vans will be allowed. Steep Rock Association will not plan any activities during that time frame..
- **Housing Commission:** The Housing Commission is requesting the Selectmen approve an amount of \$3300.00 for survey work. The money is included in their budget and not out of the general operating fund. **Motion:** To approve the amount of \$3300.00 out of the Housing Commission budget for survey work by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- **Discussion of ARPA Committee recommendations and approvals to be moved to the Board of Finance who will move it to a Town Meeting.**
 1. **Pilobolus:** Requested \$75,000.00 and Committee recommendation is \$25,000.00. Jay Hubelbank asked what are they using it for? Andrew Carron responded that Pilobolus will work with groups in the community and expand classes. **Motion:** To approve \$25,000.00 for Pilobolus who provides programs for all ages by Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. The motion passed unanimously.
 2. **Shakesperience Productions Inc.:** Requesting \$25,000.00 for continued performances. Jay Hubelbank commented that Shakesperience is not a town-based performing arts organization. Dean Sarjeant responded that the group would make good of the funds and they do attract large audiences. **Motion:** To approve \$25,000.00 for Shakesperience by Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Motion passed with two ayes and one opposed.
 3. **Spring Hill Arts Gathering "SHAG":** Requested \$50,000.00 and Committee Recommendation is \$10,000.00. Their application stated to use the funds for lowering ticket prices and possibly some free tickets. **Motion:** To approve \$10,000.00 for Spring Hill Arts Gathering by Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. The motion passed unanimously.
 4. **Steep Rock Association:** Requesting \$99,900.00 to purchase a pre-fabricated sixty-foot truss bridge to replace the footbridge at the entrance of Hidden Valley Preserve. The Committee recommends \$65,000.00. **Motion:** To approve \$65,000.00 for Steep Rock Association by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. The motion passed unanimously.
 5. **United Way of Western Connecticut:** Requesting \$20,000.00 for programs in the community. Committee recognizes the many worthwhile programs but decided against recommending funding because the organization is not primarily focused on the Town of Washington. Discussion included the programs they offer and perhaps have them talk with Judea Garden about subsidies for food. **Motion:** To approve \$10,000.00 for United Way of Western Connecticut by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. The motion passed unanimously.
 6. **Washington Art Association and Gallery:** Requesting \$150,000.00 to refurbish and expand facilities to offer improved education and exhibition spaces. The Committee recommended partial funding of \$65,000.00. **Motion:** To approve \$65,000.00 for the Washington Art Association and Gallery by Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Motion passed unanimously.
 7. **Washington Community Housing Trust Inc.:** Requesting \$141,119.00 for renovations and capital improvements to 16 Church Street in New Preston. The Committee recommended partial funding of \$85,000.00. **Motion:** To approve \$85,000.00 for the Washington Community Housing Trust by Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business (continued):

- **Discussion of wake boats:** Sean Hayden, director of the Interlocal, attended the meeting to talk about the issue of wake boats on Lake Waramaug. A wake boat is a powerful craft that is destructive of plants and the ecosystem. Sean explained there are sensors recording how the lake is behaving throughout the year; the artificial waves from the wake boats are damaging. These kind of boats on Lake Waramaug could undo what has taken thirty years keep the lake clean and there is also a safety factor. The Lake Waramaug Task Force is focusing on the quality of the lake. Bob Papsin, chairman of Inland Wetlands, stated that his commission is also concerned with shoreline protection. Carole Matteo has done research on this topic and she feels Lake Waramaug is too narrow for these boats. Jim Brinton has reached out to the Selectmen's office of both Warren and Kent regarding the process of handling these crafts. Should they be banned? Sean also stated that although Lake Waramaug is a public resource, it is the State of Connecticut DEEP that oversees decisions about certain activities. The Selectmen will continue to discuss with Warren and Kent.

New Business:

- **Scheduling of a Special Town Meeting: Motion:** To set the agenda as follows: The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:
 - To approve an ex-budget appropriation at the request of Board of Finance.
 - To approve the ARPA Fund Committee recommendations.
 - To approve the sale of the Johnson Property on Scofield Hill Road.By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors:

- **Carole Matteo** recognized the Board of Selectmen for their great work on the upgrade of the Transfer Station.

Adjournment:

Before adjourning, Dean Sarjeant commented on the comprehensive work the ARPA Committee did and thanked them. 2024 is the time line to spend.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM as there was no further business for discussion by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila M. Anson, Acting Clerk
March 21, 2023