

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

May 25, 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: Nick Solley, Chris Charles, Joan Lodsins, Ross Bartfield, Leslie Anderson, MaryAnn Haverstock, Rebecca Rebillard, Shelley White, Tammy Rill.

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

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

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

- **Memorial Day Parades:** 1:30p.m. - New Preston; 2:30p.m. - Washington Depot. Immediately following Washington Depot parade, there will be a ceremony on the front lawn of the Town hall honoring Veterans and the Stephen Reich Citizenship Award will be presented.

Selectmen's Report: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Proposed Wake Boat Ordinance:** Jim Brinton reported that the draft Ordinance has been sent back to DEEP for further review, with inspection details, and addressing recommendations on how best to enforce – i.e. violator prohibited from the lake as opposed to receiving a fine. Once the DEEP and the Towns agree on a final draft, the Board of Selectmen of Washington, Warren and Kent need to approve and refer to Town Meetings for final approval. All three Towns need to approve the Ordinance. Jay Hubelbank expressed his opinion that the sooner the Ordinance can be put into place, the better. Dean Sarjeant agreed. However, some wake boats are already on the lake and should passing of the Ordinance not be approved in all three Towns, that decision will need to be accepted.
- **Speeding on Wykeham Road:** Jim Brinton reported that there has been an increase in police patrols, gathering of data from the speed limit signs throughout Town, working to get legislation to allow ticketing from that information, etc. Ross Bartfield expressed his opinion that the 30mph Speed Limit section of Wykeham be changed to 25mph so that the entire road would be consistent. Jim feels that the speed limits posted throughout Town are what has been determined to be safe and feels that best solution is to continue to work on enforcement of the posted speed limits. The movable flashing speed limit signs have proven to slow drivers down.
- **Discussion of the transfer of property from the Town to ROMAC:** Discussion was tabled as more information is needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Request from the Housing Commission to approve funds for an Environmental Assessment:** In order for the Washington Community Housing Trust to apply for funding from the HTCC (State Housing Tax Credit Contribution Program), an Environmental Assessment needs to be completed on the Trust's Baldwin Hill property. **Motion:** To approve an expenditure from the Housing Fund in the amount of \$3500 to conduct an Environmental Assessment on the Baldwin Hill property owned by the Washington Community Housing Trust to continue the mission of providing affordable housing for Washington. By Jim Brinton. Seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

- **Proclamation: Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day:**

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is an inherited neurological disorder that is characterized by involuntary physical and vocal tics that occur many times a day; and

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is often accompanied by other mental health disorders such as attention deficit and obsessive-compulsive disorder, learning disabilities, and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome and persistent tic disorders affect 1 in 50 children. More than 7,769 school-age children in the State of Connecticut alone are dealing with Tourette Syndrome and although some of these cases are aided by medication, there is no standard treatment or known cure for the disorder; and

WHEREAS, there is an important need for more professional help with interest and expertise to identify, counsel, and treat people with Tourette Syndrome, a disorder that is often misdiagnosed and misunderstood; and

WHEREAS, positive actions to assist children and families living with Tourette Syndrome would result from a broadening of public and professional knowledge and acceptance of Tourette Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, the Tourette Association of America is actively providing services to families, educating medical professionals and teachers, and supporting research to better understand the signs and treatments of TS; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that June 4, 2023 will be recognized as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day" in Washington, as a special day to promote understanding, compassion, and acceptance for all of our fellow citizens who deserve and need our support to break the stigma that surrounds Tourette. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: A resident of the Town who has a child with Tourette Syndrome contacted Jim with information and requested passing of this Proclamation in the hopes of bringing awareness to Tourette Syndrome. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Proclamation: Emergency Medical Services Week:**

WHEREAS, emergency medical service is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide life-saving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services have grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their life-saving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, I, James L. Brinton, First Selectman, Washington Connecticut, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 21 - 27, 2023, as Emergency Medical Services Week. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Leslie Anderson** reminded the public when they are out on the roads walking, running, biking to wear high visibility safety clothing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:55p.m. to reenter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in the Land Use Office. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:23p.m. having taken no action.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:23p.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