

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

July 6, 2023

HYBRID MEETING

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

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

Public: Rod Wyant, Peter Bonachea, Bob Papsin, Leslie Anderson, Stacey Lender, Mike Guadagno, Rebecca Rebillard, Tracy Brinton, Mike Gershenson, Larry Gendron, 209035.

Press: Ann Jamieson – 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 June 22, 2023 meeting of the Board of Selectmen with amending them to include an attachment from the Lake Waramaug Association (see below). By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Stacey Lender - Vice President, Lake Waramaug Association

The Association did not propose the wake boat ordinance and is not taking a side on whether certain boating activities should or should not be restricted on Lake Waramaug. We support promoting community-wide discussion in a public forum with all stakeholders for this ordinance and other matters that affect life in and around the lake. This includes:

Advocating for an Open Public Process: The Lake Waramaug Association is advocating for the towns of Washington, Warren, and Kent to Provide a transparent public process, including requests to present the proposed ordinance along with rationale for its consideration at public meetings called with timely notice and Zoom access; Provide the community an opportunity at these public meetings to engage in open and courteous discussion, ask questions, and consider alternate language, if proposed; Provide clear and accurate information about the local process for enacting such an ordinance, including information about the ordinance's origination, background information/research, who is eligible to vote, and where and when a vote will take place. The Lake Waramaug Association will help disseminate accurate information to its membership via their website and emails and encourage our members to make their voices heard: to write a letter, submit questions, and suggestions to the town selectmen or to DEEP officials, and/or consider attending upcoming Board of Selectmen Meetings taking place in each town as well as future town meetings as indicated on the towns' websites.

The Lake Waramaug Association believes a holistic approach should be taken when it comes to boating and water safety on Lake Waramaug. The goal of our new Lake It Easy campaign is to educate and encourage all recreational users on Lake Waramaug to follow safe boating guidelines for our small lake - to Boat Safe, Paddle Smart, and Swim Aware - following all CT boating laws and regulations as well as etiquette for safe and courteous boating on Lake Waramaug. We will be launching the Lake It Easy campaign starting this week and will be handing out fliers and safety whistles throughout the summer.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointing of a temporary Building Committee for the new Ambulance Headquarters:**
Motion: To appoint the following to the Ambulance Headquarters Building Committee: Jim Brinton-First Selectman, Jay Hubelbank-Board of Selectmen, Peter Bowman-Washington Building Official and Architect-Heidi Johnson, Chief Washington Ambulance Association, Mark Showalter-Washington Facilities Manager and possibly Eliot Johnson-builder. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

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

- **Transfer Station:** Jim has met with the staff. All is going well with the newly renovated Transfer Station and the staff is working hard to continue to educate the public on proper disposal and separation of garbage, demolition, recyclables, etc. **Motion:** To change the charge for disposal of ALL appliances to \$10. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Discussion: Previously fees ranges from \$10-\$35. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectmen's Report:

- **Jay Hubelbank** reported he has been looking into solar light posts that meet dark sky requirements, etc. They can be placed on a timer and/or be motion activated and can also provide a charging station. He is currently getting estimates for possible installation at the Town Hall and River Walk Pavilion.
- **Dean Sarjeant** reported that the Lake Keepers, citizen patrol group, program will not be happening this summer due to training, insurance issues, DEEP requirements, etc. However, the Police will be increasing their patrols.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Wake Boat Ordinance:** Jay Hubelbank inquired about the current status of the proposed Wake Boat Ordinance. Jim Brinton explained that the Lake Waramaug Task Force has requested that more scientific information be gotten prior to the Towns of Washington, Warren and Kent enacting such an Ordinance. What is applicable to some lakes in the State, may or may not apply to Waramaug. Dean Sarjeant stressed the importance of making sure the information is correct and the process be done correctly in all three Towns.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Deputy Treasurer:** Jim Brinton reported he had received an email from the Town Treasurer notifying him that she had appointed a Deputy Treasurer and has the authority to do so by State Statute. Jim explained that the Treasurer had come to the Board of Selectmen several times with the request for more hours and/or an assistant. The Selectmen requested information as to why this was needed and that has not been provided. The position of Deputy Treasurer has not been budgeted for in this fiscal year that has just begun. The request for a Deputy's salary would need to be referred to the Board of Finance, with the information as to why the position is necessary and an ex-budget appropriation requested. If the Board of Finance does not approve, payment of the Deputy would need to be taken from the Treasurer's salary.

Jim further explained he has spoken to the Town Attorney who explained that a Deputy Treasurer cannot carry on any duties of the Treasurer unless the Treasurer becomes incapacitated. Jay Hubelbank stated that the Treasurer had made similar request for more hours, etc. prior to this current Administration and again, no supporting documentation was provided. Jim, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, will contact the Treasurer.

Visitors:

- **Peter Bonachea**, a resident of West Shore Road since 1981 attended this evening's meeting to express his experience with the impact wake boats have had on his property. In the last three years, boulders in his sea wall, which has been there since the late 1800's have become dislodged. Recently, he was nearly thrown from his dock due to the high energy of the wake created by one of these boats. His concern is not only for himself and his property but for the Lake and for future generations. He feels that if nothing is done, years from now, the damage to the Lake and property will be regretted.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:55p.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