

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**January 4, 2024**

**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:** Michelle Gorra, Chris Charles, Rebecca Rebillard, Larry Gendron, Todd Peterson, Rod Wyant, Danny (?).

**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 December 21, 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:

- **Composting:** Jim has been looking into the permitting process required through the DEEP to compost leaves, tree debris, etc. at the Town's Transfer Station. Cornwall's First Selectman, Gordon Ridgeway, has also been working on this and he and Jim will continue to discuss the matter further.
- **Speed limit signs:** The Connecticut Legislature has approved the installation of automated speed limit signs that can record speeds, take pictures of license plates and issue tickets if a driver is exceeding the speed limit by 10 or more MPH. As part of this approval, the Statute specifies the need for an Ordinance to be approved at a Town Meeting which authorizes the Board of Selectmen, as the Town's Traffic Authority to install the units on any road that is considered to not be pedestrian safe. The cost is approximately \$13,000-\$18,000 per unit.
- **Todd Peterson inquiry:** Resident, Todd Peterson, after reviewing the minutes of the Sustainability Committee, contacted the Board of Selectmen to inquire about the Town's purchase of battery powered leaf blowers and the plan to purchase additional equipment of the same brand that will also be battery powered thus having the ability to interchange batteries. Mr. Peterson does not feel the purchase of this equipment is not "good financial stewardship" given the cost and, in his opinion, is a lesser quality product as compared to gas powered equipment. Jim Brinton did extensive research which he offered to share with Mr. Peterson, as well as providing him with copies of invoices. Mr. Peterson thanked him and will review the materials.

**Selectmen's Report:**

- **Jay Hubelbank** reported he has met with Economic Development Coordinator, Michelle Gorra, to discuss more sustainability matters.

- **Dean Sarjeant** reported that the Lake Waramaug “Keepers” program is moving forward and training will start up in the not-too-distant future.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Composting:** See above under “First Selectman’s Report”.
- **Tunnel Road Bridge:** A site visit was conducted today with the contractor who has been informed that payment will be withheld until certain benchmarks are met. At present, the bridge is scheduled to open on January 11<sup>th</sup> with limitations. The entire project should be completed by the end of April.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**Visitors:**

- **Rebecca Rebillard** inquired about the cost of removing recycled materials as compared to the cost of removing trash. The cost of removing recycled materials is significantly less per ton than trash. Separating glass into its own container, has contributed to an even lower cost of removing recyclables.

**Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:56p.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