

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Washington Economic Development Committee/ Commission

Tues. Sept 8, 2020, 9:30-11:00 am, Zoom meeting

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

Present: First Selectman Jim Brinton, Michelle Gorra, Jeff Miller, Fran Keilty, Lisa Stein, Michael Jackson, Julia Nable, Christopher Charles

Call to Order: First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 9:34am.

Old Business:

- **WBA-**
Have been reaching out to businesses and giving supplies away, there have been no events or get togethers at this time. The next initiative is to put together a services directory that will be on-line for updates. They are also looking at an expansion of holiday lights for the Depot.
- **Update on Communications from SandorMax-**
- During this Covid quarantine they've been working on a lot of projects for the community, things to help the community that doesn't attract tourists to the area.
- Been sending out an E-Newsletter to new families in the area letting them know about local activities such as; hiking spots, where to pick up take out, etc.
- Drastically changed their focus over the last couple of months to focus more on the nonprofits.
- The website has been reaching people from every state, 114 different countries, 156 towns in CT, and 67% from NYC.
- The New York Times is planning on doing a piece "Living in Washington"

Motion- By selectmen Jim Brinton to approve the minutes from July 21st, seconded by Michelle Gorra all in favor.

New Business

- **-Committee format and role of new Economic & Community Development Coordinator-** Michelle Gorra is now the full time Economic Development Coordinator. The committee is moving toward becoming a commission.

Michelle plans to work with WBA closely in the future help with outreach such as the Covid survey etc. She will also continue to work on the goals as set forth by the committee.

- **Update on Reopening Schools and enrollment** - The first week has been going very well so far.
- **Progress on Community Center**-Jim shared the drawings that were presented to the land use commissions. So far feedback has been positive. The next steps are to get an estimate and hold another community conversation regarding programming.

Old Business:

- **WiFi in the Depot**- Will be going live as soon as one last piece is installed that will allow the sign off user agreement. Currently the test site is up and running and coverage is farther than expected considering not all the repeaters are in place yet.
- **Gift it Forward**- Responses have been relatively modest. If we're not on lockdown this winter they're going to make it fresh again for the holidays.
Rebuilding in a hybrid model.

Adjournment:

- **Motion**- To adjourn the meeting at, as there was no further business for discussion by First Selectman Jim Brinton at 10:25 am all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda K Reale
Selectmen's Secretary