

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Washington Economic Development Committee/ Commission

Tuesday June 15, 2021 at 3:00 pm

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

Members- First Selectman Jim Brinton, Daniel Sherr, Lisa Stein, Michael Jackson, Robyn Gray, Fran Keilty, Wayne Hilleman

Public: Zoltan Csillag, Irene Rotondo, Linda Zukauskas, Chris Charles

Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to Order:** Michelle Gora called the meeting to order at 3:05
2. Motion was made to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021 by Daniel Sherr, seconded by Jim Brinton, unanimously approved
3. **Report on Activities of Economic and Community Dev Coordinator**

Affordable Housing- Had another forum, looking to complete draft of the plan some point in September will keep all posted on that. Spent the last weeks working on the CBG grant paperwork, a large grant for \$900,000 for the Dodge Farm affordable housing.

Sustainable CT- Doing our paperwork for the August deadline, in good shape only 2 other towns in the north west corner who have completed.

Sidewalks- going to bid on phase 1 of the projects, the paving is completed, greatly appreciated by the businesses

New Home Mailing- 11 sales in May,

Farms in Washington a lot of conversations about our farms at Planning, Zoning and sustainability committee. We want to make sure are supporting our farms and they have the resources that they need, they're a huge part of this community. One large obstacle is the lack of affordable housing, we'll be addressing that more.

Bike "Path"- crating a bike friendly tour through town using signage, going to get together with DOT and Lake Waramaug Association to figure out how to make a map through town for bikers, and promoting bike safety, as we head into summer were going to see more bikers.

Zoning Business District – zoning is taking a look at the bus districts at the request of Planning. There are a few disparities between the districts.

Town Hall Brochure – The brochure is all set and ready to go

4. New Business

- a. **New Business Highlight-** LouisCT in New Preston opened, things are going well there. It appears 4 New Preston Hill is being renovated to be a business, will follow up.

- b. **Broadband- State Legislation**, Wayne Hileman- Original bill had language that would have helped our town get access to the utility poles for fiber optic lines. "One touch make ready" The language was scratched and passed in the middle of the night. The Energy and Technology Committee is heavily lobbied by the cable industry.
 - c. **Updated Town Map for Future Use** Zoltan Csillag, SandorMax- The committee wanted a little more detail, so people can find some of our high interest places that aren't in the center of town such as steep rock, the Hollister house. CT Visit has featured several spots in Washington for Father's Day.
 - d. **Postcard Mailer or Handout**-A postcard was designed to promote the arts in Washington this summer. The postcard is 2 sided, the back side is a list of "say yes to arts and culture this summer in Washington" in a to Do List style, checking off each event. The committee felt we should mail and have some to place around town. The committee also wanted to make sure all efforts were made not to miss any event. Will 3,000 of them to mail and possibly another 1,000 to leave in shops and businesses.
 - e. **Passport Reprint?** - Was printed at the end of 2019, there was 6,000 total printed, about a dollar piece. Businesses ask a lot to be refreshed with the passports. We need to distribute out all the passports that we have. Michelle will locate any remaining stock. We are thinking that a reprint may be eligible for ARPA grant money under the promoting local businesses provision.
5. **Old Business**
- a. Service directory- it is now live. We have gotten people sending updates, thinking about promoting this with some kind of post card leave behind.

Report of WBA & Selectmen on items not on the agenda-

- What a huge success the block party was. It was very well attended and huge kudos to WBA.
- Thinking about the lighting for trees for this winter, also starting to think about all the planning for the harvest festival now

Visitors-

Adjournment- made at 4:38 Motion made by Jim Brinton and seconded by Wayne

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale

Selectmen's Assistant