

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
Bryan Memorial Town Hall  
Post Office Box 383  
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794  
Planning Commission Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
June 2, 2021

7:30 P.M. – Meeting via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Hileman, Ms. Matteo, Mr. Rimsky and Ms. Gager, Mr. Mongar

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Carey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ms. White, Ms. Rill

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Mr. Charles, Ms. Gorra, Ms. Averill

Chairman Hileman called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

He then seated himself, Mr. Rimsky, Ms. Matteo, Mr. Mongar.

Ms. Gager arrived at 7:39pm, and was then seated.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES (28sec.):**

**MOTION:** To accept the May 5, 2021 Washington Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted, by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Mr. Mongar, passed 5-0 vote.

**NEW APPLICATIONS (1min. 00sec.):**

There were no New Applications for this evenings meeting.

**PENDING APPLICATIONS (1min. 09sec.):**

There were no Pending Applications for this evenings meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES (1min. 11 sec.):**

**Sustainability Committee:**

Ms. Matteo reported that the Earth Day celebration went well and that there was a pollinator presentation that took place that will give Washington credit towards the SustainableCT

certification. She added that she had attended a program focused on Equity and encouraged everyone to attend if they were given the chance.

#### Economic Development Committee:

Ms. Gorra reported that there had been focus on gathering a list of Summer events to publish on VisitCT.com to obtain a broader audience for non-profit events. She added that the Committee was looking forward to the Census data that has yet to be published with town-by-town numbers. Chairman Hileman stated that the latest date given for the results was August.

#### Affordable Housing Committee:

Mr. Mongar stated that there would be a Housing forum held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

#### Reopening Committee:

Mr. Rimsky stated that the Committee had not met, however the number of Covid-positive cases in Washington, as well as Connecticut in general, were down and places were starting to operate as usual. He added that First Selectman Brinton had written a letter to school leaders in town thanking them for their efforts during this time, and Mr. Rimsky felt that Mr. Brinton should be recognized for this well written, thoughtful letter.

Chairman Hileman stated that Town Hall had officially re-opened on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, however Commission meetings were not in-person as of yet. The Commission agreed that an in-person/hybrid meeting combination in the future seemed like a good idea for those that would like to attend meetings without having to leave their home.

#### **Continued Discussion – 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development (14min. 13sec.):**

Chairman Hileman stated that he felt this Summer would be a good opportunity to informally ask Community stakeholders their thoughts regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development and what they felt was important as the Commission moves ahead with the 2023 update. Chairman Hileman asked the Commissioners if they felt that this was a good idea and if so, if they would be willing to approach people. The Commissioners stated that they were willing to do so, and divvied up groups such as education, business, arts and culture, the farming/agriculture community as well as the other various Boards and Commissions in Washington.

The Commission discussed the Midcourse Report written by the late Tim Cole, and how new Commission members may want to read this, as it had a lot of helpful insight and information.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS (29min. 40sec.):**

Chairman Hileman stated that the Zoning Commission had begun regulation revisions regarding the Business Districts in Washington Depot, New Preston, Marbledale and Woodville. The Planning Commission had written the Zoning Commission a referral on March 4, 2020 with the request to

change the language of Section 3.2 of the Zoning Regulations – allowing properties that are both residential and commercially zoned to apply for the lesser restrictive regulation via the Special Permit process. Chairman Hileman stated that while he appreciated the Zoning Commissions effort, there had been numerous bigger changes made to the language, and the Planning Commission had only suggested a few language changes, not a complete overhaul of the Section. Ms. White explained that there had also been a request from a property owner in the Woodville section of Washington. Chairman Hileman stated that the proposed changes would be an improvement for the Depot and Woodville, however would be a restriction for the other two Business Districts. He added that he had reached out to Ms. Hill and she had invited Chairman Hileman to appear before the Zoning Commission at their next meeting on June 28, 2021 to discuss what the Planning Commission had intended in their referral. Chairman Hileman encouraged all to attend.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS (49min 14sec.):**

##### **Draft of Existing Land Use Maps from HVA:**

Chairman Hileman stated that they had received an updated drafted version of the maps, however it still wasn't 100% accurate. Ms. White has supplied HVA with a previous version to work with for the time being.

##### **Further Discussion:**

Chairman Hileman updated the Commission regarding a Planning and Housing reform bill that had recently passed through the Connecticut House and Senate and was awaiting the Governor's signature. There would be no major impact to Washington, however Land Use Commissioners will be required to undergo four-hour training every other year.

The Planning Commission is still looking for an Alternate member to join their team.

Ms. Averill questioned whether anyone had been in contact with the Town of Warren regarding information they had on their farming community. Ms. Gorra stated that she and Ms. Dyer were in the process of putting together a list of the farms in Washington.

The Commissioners all agreed the importance of including farming and their many uses in the 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development.

**MOTION: To adjourn the June 2, 2021 Washington Planning Commission meeting at 8:46pm, by Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Mr. Mongar, passed 5-0 vote.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

Land Use Clerk

June 8, 2021

To listen to the recording of this meeting, please follow this link:

[https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/trill\\_washingtonct\\_org/EcwZlUE\\_w7VGqT4o1I-ziv0BiQL4MXFTsYSWEzuvFKpINg?e=c3ZB00](https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/trill_washingtonct_org/EcwZlUE_w7VGqT4o1I-ziv0BiQL4MXFTsYSWEzuvFKpINg?e=c3ZB00)