

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
January 23 2020

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

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Michelle Gorra.

Public: Linda McGarr, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Dave Werkhoven, Todd Peterson, Chris Charles, Susan Smith.

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 January 9, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Commission Vacancies:** Jim Brinton reported he has communicated with both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees regarding vacancies on several Boards/Commissions. The DTC has recommended Tim Fenton and Shane Monger to fill vacancies on the Housing Commission and Ted Bent and Bill Farrell for the Zoning Commission vacancy. The Selectmen discussed following the newly adopted Appointment Policy by posting the vacancies on the Town's Website, getting input from the Board/Commission Chairman and political Town Committees, meeting with the prospective candidate, etc.
- **Appointment of Rex Swain as Washington's representative to BRRFOC (Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee):** **Motion:** To appoint Rex Swain to represent the Town of Washington on BRRFOC. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Rex (who had served as a member of the Board of Finance for many years) has expressed an interest and has attended several meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- **State Funding:** The State of CT has announced that there will be \$15 million dollars available for STEAP Grants. Applications, however, are not yet being accepted.
- **Wykeham Rise:** Two law suits filed against the Land Use Office in regard to the Wykeham Rise project have been dismissed. In the meantime, a demolition permit has been applied for with the Inland Wetlands Commission.
- **Scott Werkhoven:** Congratulations to Scott on his being named Assistant Soccer Coach of the Year.
- **Jack Muckstadt:** Jack, a longtime resident of the Town, passed away earlier this week. Among, many other involvements in Town, Jack was Chairman of the Town's Bicentennial Celebration in 1979 and was the "founder" of the 4th of July Fireworks celebration.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **West Church Hill Road Update:** Jim Brinton has met with Elizabeth Rea, 53 West Church Hill Road, to discuss her concerns and actions in regard to the road. Jim has recommended she speak with other residents of the road and submit a list of concerns and things they would like to see done. Signs that had been posted have been removed as they did not have the approval of the Town.
- **Rabbit Hill Road Update:** Jim reported that notices have been sent by Certified Return Receipt mail to residents owning property abutting Rabbit Hill Road notifying them of proposed work on the bridge. A notice will also be placed in the newspaper followed by a public information meeting to be scheduled.
- **WiFi in the Depot:** Jay Hubelbank reported that work continues with Ed Advance. Signal testing will begin tomorrow, Friday. An updated list of equipment has been compiled and it is hoped that the service will be up and running by the end of February. Jay further explained that Town's no longer have to rely on Frontier or Eversource to install lines on poles but can hire their own contractors.
- **Job Descriptions:** Jay reported that Town Attorney has reviewed and recommended wording for the Job Descriptions. Employees will be able to review their particular job descriptions with the Selectmen.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Pesticide Legislations:** Jay Hubelbank and Jim Brinton have both had correspondence and conversation with members of the Washington Environmental Council regarding pesticide legislation. Presently, Towns cannot set stricter standards than the State. The Council is advocating lobbying the State to allow Towns to set their own regulations in regard to the use of pesticides. Linda McGarr expressed her support as did Selectmen Michelle Gorra suggesting involving local farmers. **Motion:** To support efforts to allow the Town to set its own guidelines in regard to the use of pesticides. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Dave Werkhoven:** Dave addressed the Selectmen to discuss the rescinding of Rebecca Rebillard's appointment as an alternate on the Zoning Commission. Specifically, Dave stated he took the action personally as he, along with former First Selectman Mark Lyon, made the appointment and had followed protocol. He further stated his belief (personally and as a member of the Zoning Commission) that Rebecca was a perfect candidate for the position and asked that the Board of Selectmen consider reappointing her as an alternate on the Zoning Commission as "it would be the right thing to do and good for the Town." **Motion:** To reappoint Rebecca Rebillard as an alternate on the Zoning Commission. By Jim Brinton. Discussion: Jim expressed his belief that the rescinding should not have taken place and reminded those present that Nick Solley, Chairman of Zoning, had recommended and approved her being appointed in the first place. There was no second to the motion.
- **Todd Peterson:** Todd expressed his agreement with Dave Werkhoven and referred to his letter read into the minutes at the previous meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
- **Susan Smith:** Susan also expressed support of Rebecca's being reappointed as she has served and has the experience to make qualified decisions if seated as a full member.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:07p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant