

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes**  
**February 20, 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:** Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Susan Smith, Chris Charles, Peter Talbot, Elizabeth Rea, Leclaire Ratterree. **Press:** Lance Reynolds.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman James Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Michelle Gorra and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:**

- **Appointment of Ted Bent as an alternate on the Zoning Commission: Motion:** To appoint Edward (Ted) Bent as an alternate on the Zoning Commission to fill the vacancy that expires 11/2023. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton. Discussion: This appointment was discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Selectmen and was tabled until Zoning Chairman, Nick Solley, weighed in. The appointment is at the recommendation of the Democratic Town Committee. Ted has expressed his interest. Jim Brinton stated he has not changed his opinion on the subject but in order to move forward would give his support. The motion passed unanimously. Ted will be placed on the ballot at the next Municipal Election to complete the term.

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

- **RRR Maintenance** has again been dumping on property in Washington. The Attorney General's Office as well as the DEEP and Washington's Health Department are again involved. The DEEP has determined it to be "clean fill"; however, the Town's Health Department disagrees because of the size of the concrete blocks. The Town's Enforcement Officer has issued a cease and desist order. Regularly scheduled visits to the site will be scheduled.
- **Land Use Coordinator, Shelly White,** continues to compile Bylaws for the Land Use Boards and Commissions.
- **Bridges:** Jim Brinton explained that due to the amount of bridge work needing to be done in the Town, the budget for the next several years will be affected depending on the amount of funding from the State and Federal governments. **Rabbit Hill Road Bridge** informational meeting was well attended by residents who provided input. Cardinal Engineers is working with the Town and residents to address concerns.
- **Condolences to the family and friends of Tim Cole** who passed this past week. Tim worked tirelessly for the Town in the short time he was involved, particularly on the Plan of Conservation and Development and follow up to the tasks assigned in that document.

- **Condolences to the family and friends of Kathy Leab** who also passed this past week. Kathy was involved and dedicated to many organizations in Town and served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Tasks assigned to the Board of Selectmen in the Plan of Conservation and Development:**  
There are 28 tasks assigned to the Board of Selectmen – 10 are currently being worked on or in the process of being worked on. Other items have been touched on in some way. The Selectmen will continue this work and will also ask the Boards and Commissions to do the same – reporting to the Selectmen 1 or 2 times a year. Each Board/Commission should maintain it on their agendas. Michelle Gorra reported that the Economic Development Committee is also following recommendations in the report and suggested that similar tasks be grouped and [prioritized]. She further explained that funds may be available once the Town is approved for sustainability certification.
- **West Church Hill Road Update:** West Church Hill Road resident Elizabeth Rea, and Architect Peter Talbot, attended this evening's meeting to discuss concerns from abutting property owners. This discussion began in November 2019 when a section of West Church Hill road at the intersection with Lower Church Hill Road was paved – the entire road has previously been dirt. Since that time the road has been approved for scenic road designation by the Town. Peter and Elizabeth presented drawing, photos and maps of the area and provided the Selectmen with several proposed options including possible abandonment of the Road by the Town, or signage, remedial work to restore the paved section to dirt, etc. with the Town maintaining ownership. The Selectmen agreed to review and discuss the options presented along with consultation with the Town's attorney.
- **WiFi in the Depot:** Jay Hubelbank reported that a signal test was performed and the signal was "strong" from the Town Hall to the Pantry on Titus Road with no repeaters being used. Work to finalize the project will continue.
- **Region #12 Building Project Update:** Construction of all new buildings, additions and changes to the existing building is completed. The project is still coming in under budget. An open house will hopefully be scheduled in April following spring landscaping, etc.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution: Special Education Services Center: Resolved:** That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington endorses the proposal for the project entitled "NW CT Regional Special Education Services Center" under the Regional Performance Incentive Program referenced in Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-124s. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: The NW Hills Council of Governments in collaboration with EdAdvance supports and recommends endorsement by the Town. The motion Passed unanimously.
- **Juice Bar charging station:** The electric car charging station in the Plaza costs the Town approximately \$2500/year in electricity charges – presently users are not charged. Jim has met with a representation from Juice Bar who has recommended replacing the unit with one that would have two chargers available and users can use credit cards to pay for the charge. This would also discourage people from leaving their cars attached to the charging station for long periods of time as an idling charge would be added to the bill. The initial cost to the Town to replace the unit would be approximately \$6000. It is felt that this cost would be recouped in two years followed by income being generated for the Town. This is being suggested for inclusion in next year's budget.

**Visitors:**

- **Leslie Anderson** reported there are presently three candidates interested in filling the four vacancies on the Housing Commission.

**Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:47p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Michelle Gorra and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Selectmen's Assistant