

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
March 19, 2020

Meeting held via Video Conferencing

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

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Michelle Gorra.
Public: Sheila Anson, Tony Bedini, Dan Sherr, Peter Talbot, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins.

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 March 5, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications:

- **Letter of Resignation from Keith Templeton from the Board of Assessment Appeals:** Keith has submitted his resignation effective immediately. All hearings have been completed. The Board of Selectmen accepted Keith's resignation with gratitude for his years of service.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Rebecca Rebillard as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals: Motion:** To appoint Rebecca Rebillard as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the vacancy that expires 11/2021. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Michelle Gorra. Discussion: Her appointment is supported by Peter Bowman - Chairman of ZBA, and the Republican Town Committee. Rebecca is willing to serve and will need to be placed on the ballot at the next Municipal Election.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported:

- **Coronavirus Update:** The State Department of Health currently has 12 testing facilities. The closest to Washington is Danbury. A physician's prescription is required for the test. The Town is providing food and prescription deliveries to those sheltering in their homes. Thank you to the numerous volunteers who have signed up to assist with this program. Thank you to the Town employees who continue to serve the public. Town Hall is closed to the public but appointments can be made with individual offices to allow people access to records, etc. They must answer several screening questions prior to the appointment being granted. In addition to the Selectmen's Office, the Washington Business Association is also updating residents daily. Some local businesses are closed or will be closing Monday, March 23. Restaurants continue to be open for take-out only. Michelle Gorra reported that an employee of Aspetuck Animal Hospital has tested positive for COVID-19. Anyone who may have come in contact has been notified and the Hospital is closed for at least another week. The person is a resident of New Milford.
- **Declaration of State of Emergency:** Jim Brinton reported that by his authority as First Selectman, he has proclaimed a state of emergency and local civil preparedness emergency within the Town of Washington. This allows the First Selectman to "take such action as

necessary to protect the public health and mitigate this emergency consistent with pertinent constitutional, statutory, regulatory, Compact, and Ordinance provisions, subject to the Governor's preemption, including but not limited to expending funds, mobilizing, organizing and directing the forces of the Town of Washington and cooperating with the forces of the federal government, the State, and other political subdivisions...."

- **Senior Center** is closed to the public. Director, Pam Collins is reaching out to Seniors to determine if there are needs.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Plan of Conservation and Development Update:** Given the amount of time devoted to COVID-19, an update will be done at a later date. Jay Hubelbank mentioned that the Town of Woodbury had hired an outside firm to assist with how the various departments are aligning with their POCD. He will send article. Michelle Gorra also spoke of meeting the Enforcement Officer and Town Planner in Woodbury and obtained a copy of their RFP.

Visitors:

- **Peter Talbot** thanked the Selectmen for making this meeting available by video conferencing. His discussion re: West Church Hill Road will wait till a later date. Michelle Gorra suggested that when that discussion takes place, Highway Director Kevin Smith be available to address various safety concerns, etc.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:49p.m., with a thank you to the Town Hall staff for doing a great job in these difficult times. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Michelle Gorra and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant