

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
September 3, 2020**

Meeting held via video conferencing.

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

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectman Jay Hubelbank.
Public: Leslie Anderson, Dan Sherr, Joan Lodsins, Susan Smith.
Press: Linda Zukauskas.

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

MOTION: To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: to appoint Michelle Gorra to the Economic Development Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen by James Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Robert Tomlinson as Emergency Management Director:** Robert “Rocky” Tomlinson has submitted a letter requesting The Board of Selectmen accept his retirement from the position of EMD. **Motion:** To accept Robert Tomlinson’s request to retire with deep and sincere gratitude for his decades of service to the Town of Washington. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank who added his own note of appreciation and thanks. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Mark Showalter and Ethan Labella as Co-Emergency Management Directors:** **Motion:** To appoint Mark Showalter and Ethan Labella as Co-Emergency Management Directors for indefinite term. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
- **Appointment of Michelle Gorra to the Economic Development Committee:** **Motion:** To appoint Michelle Gorra to the Economic Development Committee for an indefinite term. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

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

- **Storm Update:** 31 roads in Town were blocked due to downed trees and/or wires in the last storm. Going forward, Jim Brinton, would like to work with Emergency Services to develop a plan for future storms – especially in light of the unsatisfactory response from Eversource in both major storms to hit the Town in the last 3 weeks. Jay Hubelbank inquired if the Town could “hire” outside services to clear and reconnect once make safe crews have evaluated. Susan Smith inquired about the Town converting to underground utility lines. It was explained the cost would be astronomical. Some of the newer residential areas do have underground.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Senior Activities in the Main Hall:** The Altorelli Health Group will begin holding health and wellness activities geared for seniors in the Main Hall. Classes will begin on September 9th and there will be no charge.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Holding In-person Meetings:** Jim Brinton has contacted each of the Boards and Commissions inquiring if they would like to start holding meetings in-person. Only Zoning requested in-person meetings in order to provide the public with the necessary information for public hearings. Ed Advance will work with the Town to develop a hybrid type meeting.

Visitors:

- **Joan Lods inquired** about the appointment of Michelle Gorra to the EDC. Jim Brinton explained that as she has assumed her position as Economic Development Coordinator it was important she become a member of the Committee.
- **Susan Smith** expressed her agreement, as a member of the Zoning Commission, that their meetings be held in person - at least in part.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:50p.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