

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
March 18, 2021**

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 Dean Sarjeant.
Public: Dan Sherr, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Michelle Gorra, Susan Smith, Carole Matteo.
Press: Linda Zukauskas VOICES, Lance Reynolds-Republican American.

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

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Brendan Ferreira to Historic District Commission: Motion:** To appoint Brendan Ferreira as an alternate on the Historic District Commission until 1/1/2024. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Mr. Ferreira has written a letter of interest in serving in this capacity. Chairman Tom Hollinger is in support. The Motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Amy Dyer to the Sustainability Committee: Motion:** To appoint Amy Dyer to the Sustainability Committee. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Ms. Dyer has attended several meetings and expressed her interest in serving. Jay is in support. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Resignation of Tammy Rill from the Housing Commission:** The Selectmen accepted Tammy's resignation, effective immediately, with regret and with gratitude for her time served.

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

- **New Preston sidewalks:** It is hoped that conceptual plans for the sidewalks in the Village of New Preston will have been received by the next meeting.
- **Bridge Bids:** The CT DOT has informed Jim that the funding for the Calhoun Street and Rabbit Hill Road Bridges is still in the budget and it is hoped that funds will be received in order to complete both jobs this year.
- **COVID 19 Update:** Jim explained that although the COVID map on the State's website shows Washington back in the "red" category, it is inaccurate. We have not been notified of any new cases in several weeks.
- **COVID 19 Recovery Committee:** Jim reported that the volunteers who have been assisting residents in getting appointments for vaccines, have also identified seniors who have been isolated and not aware of various programs, etc. As a result, flyers are being developed that will be distributed at local businesses outlining programs and services available.

- **American Rescue Plan Act:** The Town has been notified it will be receiving \$340,000 through this plan of the Federal Government. Half will be received in the first year, the other half in the second. The full amount must be expended by 2024. Guidelines as to its spending will be forthcoming. Also, individual counties will receive additional funds that will be distributed to municipalities within the county.
- **Town Hall re-opening to the public:** In light of some restrictions being eased, Jim Brinton asked the Board for it's thought on re-opening Town Hall. Presently, the public is allowed in only by appointment. Protocols would need to be established and logistics of how to make this work will also need to be discussed further. Dean Sarjeant felt that the comfort level of employees should be a major factor.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Request for Proposal – Conceptual Plan – Titus Block: Motion:** To extend the following Invitation for Request for Proposals: The Town of Washington is seeking design services for Titus Block Plaza including the surrounding roadways of Titus Road, Green Hill Rd. (Rt. 47) and Bee Brook Road (Rt. 47 & 109). The concept plan should include the redesign of the Town owned parking lots, internal pedestrian circulation and sidewalks, roadway sidewalks, lighting suggestions and on-street parking. In addition, the project should include the identification of potential traffic calming measures for Green Hill Rd. and should include at least one stakeholders meeting. A site visit can be scheduled through the Selectmen's office, phone 860-868-2259. Sealed RFPs will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2021 at the Office of the First Selectman, Bryan Memorial Town Hall, 2 Bryan Plaza, P.O. Box 383, Washington Depot, CT 06794. RFPs will be opened at 5:30p.m. at the Board of Selectmen's meeting. The Town of Washington reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to award in the best interest of the Town. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.
- **Arts Council:** Dean Sarjeant the formation of a committee that would explore ideas for bringing more arts and culture to the Town. This would involve a coordination of what is already happening as well as incorporating new ideas. More information to follow in upcoming weeks.

Visitors:

- **Dan Sherr** inquired about the "Titus Block" project and what the perimeters of it would be. Jim Brinton explained a survey will be done to identify what properties, or portions thereof, are owned by the various businesses and what is owned by the Town.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:52p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant