

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
April 15, 2021**

Meeting held via Video Conferencing.

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

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectman Dean Sarjeant.

Public: Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Dan Sherr, Michelle Gorra, Susan Smith, Chris Charles.

Press: Linda Zukauskas-VOICES.

Call to Order: First Selectman James Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 31, 2021 and April 8, 2021 meetings of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Catherine Rawson: Motion:** To appoint Catherine Rawson as a full member of the Conservation Commission (moving up from an alternate) until 1/1/23. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.
- **Appointment of David Gewanter: Motion:** To appoint David Gewanter as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission until 1/1/22. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant.
Discussion: David has attended meetings, expressed his interest in serving and his appointment is endorsed by Conservation Commission Chairman, Susan Payne. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Joline Audet: Motion:** To appoint Joline Audet as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands Commission until 6/30/21. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant.
Discussion: Joline has attended meetings and site visits, expressed her interest in serving and her appointment is endorsed by Inland Wetlands Commission Chairman, Bob Papsin. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Jennifer Pote:** At her request, her appointment to the Housing Commission is on hold.

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

- **COVID Vaccines:** The number of Washington residents vaccinated continues to increase. There will be a closed vaccine clinic Sunday, April 18th for private school students and Saturday, April 24th for Region #12 students. Both will be for students over the age of 16 with parental permission granted for those under 18.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution: Community Development Grant: Motion:** To adopt the following Resolution: WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93 -3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Washington make application to the State for up to \$1,000,000.00 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Washington in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman on behalf of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Washington.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

- **Resolution: Planning Grant Funds-Affordable Housing Plan: Motion:** To adopt the following Resolution: RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen has accepted planning grant funds to prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan under the provisions of S 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes ("CGS").

FURTHER RESOLVED, tht James L. Brinton, as First Selectman of the Town of Washington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

By James Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved. Economic and Community Development Director, Michelle Gorra, explained that the Housing Commission and other interested parties including Bill Fairbairn, Chairman of the Washington Community Housing Trust, are developing a list of strategies. A public forum to present these strategies and to get input from the public is tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2021. It is hoped to have a finished plan by the end of the summer.

- **Discussion Redress PROJECT:** Chris Combs, Executive Director of the Institute of American Indian Studies, is requesting the Board of Selectmen to grant permission to stand 23 red dresses on the side lawn of Town Hall for one week beginning May 1st to

promote awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous Women. “There is an unprecedented epidemic of sexual assault and physical violence against indigenous women, girls and 2 Spirit Native Americans who go missing or who are found murdered every year.” This is an international project begun by Metis artist Jamie Black that involves hanging red dresses in various locations to represent the missing women. The Institute’s Museum will be hanging more than 50 red dresses both inside and along its trails. **Motion:** To approve the placing of 23 red dresses on the side lawn of Town Hall in support of the International 2021 REDress PROJECT. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant. Jim spoke of not only his support of the project but support of one of Washington’s vital organizations. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Proclamation Give Local: Motion:** To approve the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

Give Local

2021

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Community Foundation is hosting the ninth annual Give Local Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington recognizes the important role of its non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by these organizations are critically important to the vitality of Washington;

BE IT KNOWN, the Town of Washington is a better place because of their commitment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Proclaimed, that we, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington, do hereby declare

April 20th and April 21st, 2021 as Give Local Days

And

*Urge residents to show their support by
“Giving Where You Live”.*

Signed this 15th day of April 2021

James L. Brinton

Jay Hubelbank

Dean Sarjeant

Visitors: None:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:46p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:12p.m. having taken no action in Executive Session.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:12p.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