

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
April 29, 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: Michelle Gorra, Dan Sherr, Joan Lodsins, Leslie Anderson, Carole Matteo, Debra Radosevich, Chris Charles, Susan Smith.

Press: Linda Zukauskas-VOICES.

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 April 15, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

- **Resignation of Diane Dupuis from the Conservation Commission.** The Selectmen thanked Diane for over 20 years of dedicated service to this Commission and the Town.
- **Resignation of Valerie Sedelnick, Howard Rosenfield and Nick Solley from the Washington Economic Development Committee.** Accepted with gratitude.
- **Appointment of Rev. Dr. Robyn Gray to the Washington Economic Development Committee:**
Motion: To appoint Dr. Robyn Gray to the WEDC. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank.
Discussion: Robyn has submitted a letter of interest and has attended several meetings. Jim contacted both the Republican and Democratic Town Committees. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- **COVID Vaccines:** Residents 65 years and older – 99.88% have received at least their first vaccine. Residents 45-64: 65.53%; Residents 16-44: 51.76%. All eligible residents: 71.01%. Over 100 eligible Region #12 students, faculty and staff received their first vaccine at a closed clinic for Region #12.
- **Congratulations to Michael and Nancy Ackerman** on their retiring from the Pantry after 40+ years. The Selectmen wished them well and thanked them for their active and generous role in the Community.
- **Road Work:** The Selectmen and the Highway Department have scheduled an aggressive schedule of road work. Weather permitting, the schedule is as follows:
 - **Gunn Hill Road** – Partial paving and drainage, began this week.
 - **Mygatt Road** – Reclaim/Resurface/Drainage: beginning 5/10/21.
 - **Garland Road** – Repaving/Drainage: beginning 7/12/21.
 - **Potash Hill Road** – Repair/Drainage: beginning 8/9/21.

- **South Street** – Yellow line striping: beginning 6/21.
- **Baldwin Hill Road** – White Line Striping: beginning 6/21.
- **New Preston sidewalks** Engineers have completed the final design. The Town will continue to work with the merchants and the State DOT on best timing.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **WiFi in the Depot:** Jay Hubelbank reported that there are several spots throughout the Depot with weak reception. Additional equipment will be installed in several businesses to increase the reception.
- **Sustainability:** Jay Hubelbank, Michelle Gorra and Carole Matteo attended a workshop on “Equity in the Community” which dealt with outreach to residents in the hopes of recruiting more residents to participate in various events, volunteering, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Setting the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting: Motion:** To set the Agenda as follows:
The voters and electors of the Town of Washington are hereby warned that the Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut to consider and act upon the following:
 1. To consider and act upon the proposed General Fund Expenses and Transfers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
 2. To consider and act upon the proposed Nonrecurring Capital Expenses for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
 3. To consider and act upon an appropriation of an additional Nonrecurring Capital Expense for road repair and reconstruction.
 4. To amend the “Tax Abatement for Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Personnel” ordinance.
 5. To nominate candidates and elect 4 representatives to the Shepaug Regional School District #12. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
- **Approval of a request from the Washington Community Housing Trust for funds from the Washington Housing Commission:** The Washington Community Housing Trust has submitted a formal request to the Housing Commission for an allocation of up to \$10,000 to move forward with an application for a Community Development Block Grant for funds for capital improvements at Dodge Farm. The Housing Commission is in full support of the request and has now made a request to the Board of Selectmen.
Motion: To approve the request from the Washington Housing Commission to release funds from the Washington Housing Fund to the Washington Community Housing Trust and to forward the request to the Board of Finance. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
- **Salem Church – Emergency Shelter:** In preparation for future emergency events in Town, the Salem Covenant Church has offered their Church Hall as a shelter. In the past, the Town Hall has been used but due to the fact there is no kitchen, supplying food to those sheltered has been difficult. Salem has the space and the kitchen. The Town will be receiving funds through the American Rescue Plan which could help pay for improvements of the infrastructure including generators, supplies, charging and water stations, etc. for the site. The Town will work with Salem and the American Red Cross to have the church designated as a shelter.

- **CMED Designation:** Per State Statute, each municipality is eligible for a regional telecommunications service credit for Coordinated Medical Emergency Direction (CMED) services and can designate who is to receive the credit. **Motion:** To designate Litchfield County Dispatch as the recipient of the CMED credit in the amount of \$1028.40. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.
- **Proclamation honoring Frances Whitehead. Motion:** To approve the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Frances C. Whitehead is celebrating her one hundred fifth Birthday on May 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, she married Robert Whitehead in 1940 and moved to the Town of Washington where she has resided for eighty-one years; and

WHEREAS, she has served the Town as a member of Washington Junior Grange, the 4H Sewing Club, and the First Congregational Church Bell Choir; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to her family and countless friends is immeasurable; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington is a better place because of her;

*NOW THEREFORE, Be it Proclaimed, that we, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Washington, Connecticut do hereby declare that Washington recognizes **May 2, 2021 as Frances C. Whitehead Day.***

Signed this 29th day of April 2021

James L. Brinton, First Selectman

Jay Hubelbank, Selectman

Dean Sarjeant Selectman

By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Dan Sherr** requested that the title “Coordinator” for himself and Tony Bedini (members of the Economic Development Committee) be eliminated as Michelle Gorra has taken the role as the Town’s Economic and Community Development Coordinator.
- **Debra Radosevich** voiced her disapproval of the letter written by the Board of Selectmen to the Zoning Commission regarding its Regulation 12.8. She felt the contents of the letter were inadequate and a more civil approach should have been taken. She particularly objected to Commissioners being referred to as “trouble makers”. Her comments were received and noted.

EXECUTIVE SESSEION: Motion: To enter into Executive Session at 6:00p.m. 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 at 6:18p.m. with no action taken in Executive Session.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:18p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen’s Assistant