

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
December 9, 2021

HYBRID MEETING

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.

Public: Dimitri Rimsky, Chris Charles, Michelle Gorra, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Ray Reich, Rebecca Rebillard, Sally Woodrooffe, Trisha McMahon, Bob Papsin, Todd Peterson.

Press: Linda Zukauskas.

Call to Order: First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:40p.m. noting a technological difficulty.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the November 23, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Leslie Anderson from the Housing Commission:** The Selectmen accepted Leslie's resignation with sincere appreciation and gratitude for her many years of service on the Housing Commission and her involvement in developing Washington's Housing Plan as well as the Down Payment Assistance Program.
- **Appointment of Robert Norton, Jr. as Deputy Fire Marshall: Motion:** To appoint Robert Norton, Jr. as Deputy Fire Marshall for an indefinite term. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.
- **Reappointment of Ryan Conroy to the Conservation Commission until 1/1/25; Sarah Woodrooffe to the Historic District Commission until 1/1/27; Dimitri Rimsky as an alternate to the Historic District Commission until 1/1/25; Valerie Friedman as Land Use Hearing Officer until 12/31/24; Tim Cook, Ray Reich and Alice Demeo to the Parks and Recreation Commission until 1/1/25; Sarah Gager to the Planning Commission until 12/31/26; Patrick Kessler, Richard Innaimo and Thomas Accousti as Police Officers until 12/31/23.** By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

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

- Connecticut has redistricted **Washington into 2 separate Legislative districts.** Registrars Lois Pinney and Denise Arturi are working with the Secretary of State to determine if this will require the addition of a second polling place.
- **Bridge Update:** Repair/replacement of Rabbit Hill Road bridge, Calhoun Street bridge and Whittlesey Road bridge is scheduled to take place in the Spring.
- **COVID Up-date:** Although the State's positivity rate has been increasing, Washington has been doing well. Jim urged all residents to stay vigilant: get vaccinated, boosted and practice safe protocols. Jim also noted that with the availability of home testing, there is the possibility of positive cases not being reported to the Health Department of Town.

- **Reminder to lock your cars and homes** as there has been an increased number of break ins. Stay alert-stay smart!

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of Delay of Demolition Ordinance:** Dimitri Rimsky of the Historic District Commission presented an overview of the proposed Ordinance that would be allowed by Connecticut General Statutes. The Ordinance would impose a waiting period of not more than 120 days before granting a demolition permit for certain structures of architectural, historical or cultural importance. Various aspects of the proposed Ordinance were discussed, including posting of the intent to demolish, review by a Historical Review Committee, factors of consideration, etc. The Selectmen, and others in attendance, had several questions and concerns that Dimitri offered to bring back to the Historic District Commission. They will come back to the Board of Selectmen once revisions are made.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of possible Day Care facility:** If the Region #12 Superintendent's office were to move to the Shepaug campus, the space they now occupy on the Administration Building on School Street would be vacant. As it is a town-owned building, the possibility of using the space for a Day Care facility has been discussed, a survey has been done to determine interest and the need has been established. A proposal of \$11,900 has been received to do a feasibility and design study of the area (for the first floor of the building only). Jim Brinton asked the Selectmen to consider the fact that the feasibility study would be just that – a study to determine if the space could be used for a Day Care facility. It does not take into account any other use of the space. In addition, it is likely that a future Town expenditure of \$300,000 +/- would be required to complete the renovation. A non-profit would need to be created to raise operating funds, hiring staff, etc. as the Town would not want to assume running the facility. Economic Development Coordinator, Michelle Gorra, has been working on the project and expressed her belief that the need is there and the feasibility study is necessary to determine if the Town should move forward. She also mentioned she has people interested in helping to set up the non-profit for raising funds and for overseeing the facility. She also has private grant monies in the amount of \$2000 and \$1500 from the Economic Development budget committed toward the cost of the study. Discussion continued with questions, concerns and comments from the Selectmen and the public. **Motion:** To request the Board of Finance consider an ex-budget expenditure of \$8400 for a feasibility and design study of the first floor of the Region#12 Administration Building. By Jim Brinton seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant voted yes, Jim Brinton voted no. The motion carried.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:53p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant

