

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
January 6, 2022

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ONLY

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

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Dean Sarjeant.
Public: Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Dan Sherr, Michelle Gorra, Chris Charles.
Press: Linda Zukauskas – VOICES.

Call to Order: First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the December 22, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: Motion: To add subsequent business not already on the Agenda. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Resignation of George Steiner. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Appointment of Lindsay Larson to the Housing Commission: Motion:** To appoint Lindsay Larson (D) to the Housing Commission until 1/1/24. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Ms. Larson has attended several meetings, submitted her resume and has the support of the RTC and DTC. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Resignation of George Steiner as Fire Investigator:** Mr. Steiner submitted his letter of resignation to Jim Brinton this morning effective immediately. He has served as Fire Investigator for 14 years. The Selectmen thanked him for his service to the Community.

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

- **Senior Center:** The suggestion has been made to provide the Senior Center with additional funds for the development of programs and program tools. This will be reviewed for budget consideration for fiscal year 2022-2023. Dean Sarjeant offered to assist.
- **COVID Home Tests:** The allocation of at-home test kits for the Town fell far short of what was originally planned. 270 more kits have arrived and will be available to residents on a first come first serve basis at the Senior Center/Legion Hall, Sunday, January 9, 2022, 8:00a.m. Approximately 3,000 masks have been received and are available at the Senior Center/Legion Hall Mondays through Thursday 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m. while supplies last.
- **Weekly COVID report:** Jim explained that it is difficult to put out the number of COVID cases in Town due to the fact that so many are now using home tests and results are not necessarily reported to the Health Department.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of Volunteer EMS Award Program:** The Ambulance Association is requesting a review and changes to the point system for the Volunteer Award Program. The requested changes need to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and ultimately at a Town Meeting as the program was originally set up for approval at a Town Meeting. Jay Hubelbank suggested contacting Town Counsel to inquire if the Ordinance can be changed (at a Town Meeting) to give the Board of Selectmen the power to make adjustments.
- **Discussion of Auto Alarm Ordinance:** Fire Marshall, Troy Kaiser, has suggested changes to the Town Ordinance regulating Automatic Fire and Police Alarms – including requiring Lock Boxes on commercial, industrial structures, governmental structures, schools and nursing care facilities and multifamily residential structures that have restricted access. The Selectmen agreed to review the suggested changes further with Troy prior to making a decision.
- **Discussion of Placement of Snow in the Public Right of Way:** Highway Director, Kevin Smith, has suggested the Town adopt such an Ordinance as there has been an increase in private contractors leaving snow in the Town's Right of Way when plowing a resident's driveway. This has proven to be hazardous as well as adding to the clean-up efforts of the highway department. As Ordinances need to be approved at a Town Meeting, the suggestion was made to include a reminder in the weekly email blasts asking residents to speak with their contractors. The first offense would be addressed through a warning. Subsequent offenses may carry a fine of \$100.00.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:49p.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