

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
May 12, 2022

HYBRID MEETING

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

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

Public: Terry Connor, Rebecca Rebillard, Dan Sherr, Tony & Sam Bedini, Megan Bennett, David Varnish, Linda McGarr, Andrew Grenier, Dwain Holze, Kendra Holze, Ivy Holze, Skye Holze, Lauren Jones, Diane Grenier, Tracy Brinton, Robyn Gray, Dianna Gutierrez, Chris Charles, Joan Lodsins, Trish McMahon, Katherine Yovan, Caitlin Goss.

Press: Linda Zukauskas – VOICES.

Call to Order: First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:29p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

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

- **New Preston sidewalks:** Work will begin the week before Memorial Day weekend.
- **Transfer Station compactors:** Have been delivered. Installation will be done by the Highway Department.
- **Town Meeting:** Thursday, May 19, 2022, 7:30p.m. – Town Hall. In person only. Agenda: approval of the 2022-2023 General and Nonrecurring Fund budgets and approval of the Delay of Demolition Ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Daycare Update:** Economic and Community Development Coordinator Michelle Gorra and Architect David Varnish presented a summary of the feasibility study performed with plans and cost estimates. Work would be contained to the existing space occupied by the Region #12 offices. Due to the age groups that would be using the space, various codes were reviewed and changes may need to be made – i.e. sprinkler systems, entrances and egresses, which will add to the original estimate. The total to renovate the space to a Daycare facility is approximately \$500,489 +/- **Motion:** To schedule a Public Informational Hearing in June to present plans, provide survey results, answer questions, etc. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Paving of Dark Entry Road:** Jim explained to the attendees that he and Highway Director Kevin Smith meet annually to discuss and plan road work. Paving of Dark Entry is in the discussion phase only. Over the years, residents have voiced their support of keeping Dark Entry as a dirt road, others have requested it be paved. The majority of this evening's attendees strongly urged the Selectmen to maintain the road as dirt - citing it was one of the reasons for purchasing

on the road. The rural character and beauty of the road and its surroundings, and the safety of pedestrians and animals on the road are very important to them. There was an over-all concern that if paved, speeding (which is felt to already be a problem) would become worse. Other residents requested that better maintenance and drainage be done to correct the ruts and potholes that occur especially in the thaw/freeze/thaw season and suggested this may eliminate the concern that emergency vehicles or other vehicles could get stuck. More police presence was also suggested to curtail speeding. One resident expressed belief that paving would enhance property values and speeding would be no more of an issue than on other side roads. Following the many comments that were made, verbally and submitted in writing, Jim thanked all who participated for their input and explained that ultimately the Board of Selectmen is the authorized traffic authority for the Town and is responsible for the safety of its residents. Discussion and evaluation of the road will continue.

Visitors: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:35p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Dean Sarjeant and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:42p.m. taking no action in Executive Session.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:42p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dean Sarjeant, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant