

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

May 26, 2022

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: Michelle Gorra, Joan Lodsins, Leslie Anderson, Chris Charles, Susan Smith, Nick Skeadas.

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 May 12, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications:

- **Email from Peter Talbot:** Peter, who was involved in the installation of the “earth sculpture” at 16 Titus Road, thanked the Town for mowing the flat lands. He, in turn has mowed the sculpture and was inquiring if the Town would be willing to take over mowing the paths which, he feels, would be an asset for walkers. He also inquired about mowing the Greenway Trail. Thirdly, he inquired if permission could be given for the installation of a Phil Grausman sculpture on one of the plateaus on the “earth sculpture”. Jim offered to speak with Highway Director, Kevin Smith, regarding the mowing. The Selectmen saw no problem with installing a Grausman sculpture as long as it is properly secured. Finally, Peter inquired about the clean up of the Wykeham Rise property now that all law suits have been filed.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Appointment of Henrietta Small to the Housing Commission: Motion:** To appoint Henrietta Small to the Housing Commission until 1/1/25. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Ms. Small submitted a letter stating her interest in serving on this Commission and provided a resume noting her vast experience in the field of social work and her interest in developing affordable housing for residents of Washington. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Rudolph Montgelas to the Economic Development Committee: Motion:** To appoint Rudolph Montgelas to the Economic Development Committee for an indefinite term. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Mr. Montgelas is currently a member of the Fiberoptic Advisory Committee and has expressed an interest on serving on the EDC. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- **ARPA Advisory Committee** has met and has begun reviewing a list of submitted requests which once vetted will be presented to the Board of Selectmen.
- **Fiberoptic Advisory Committee** will have its first meeting next week.
- **Daycare Informational Meeting** has been scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 7:30p.m. This will be a Hybrid Meeting at the Town Hall.

- **Transfer Station:** Work will begin in the near future with installation of the compactors, updating of the facility, etc. Susan Smith inquired if Clark Road leading to the Transfer Station could possibly be widened in spots as long as work will be starting. Leslie Anderson, who also works at the Transfer Station agreed with Susan and also suggested mirrors and occasional police presence to discourage speeding.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of the 2022-2023 budget passed at the Annual Town Budget Meeting:** The Selectmen explained that the biggest change in the budget is the creation of new positions: i.e. Buildings and Property Manager, Senior Center and Parks and Recreation Coordinator – and Assistant, and Building Official. The Town is also advertising for an Interim Assessor, and two highway department positions.

Visitors:

- **Nick Skeadas** started his company Curbside Compost 6 ½ years ago and attended this evening's meeting to propose offering his services to pick up food scraps for Washington at the Transfer Station. He currently services several schools in the State, provides residential pick up in some Towns and services 10 Transfer Stations. He explained that food scraps account for 22 – 30% of the waste stream and that by taking it out of the municipal waste stream and composting it, it would not only save the Town money (cost of hauling solid waste) but would also be better for the environment. His company would provide carts at the Transfer Station and would haul them to composting sites. The Selectmen agreed that this would be a favorable addition to the Transfer Station and would most likely have the support of the Town, and the Washington Environmental Council. They asked Nick to provide a detailed proposal with costs, etc.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:57p.m. to enter into Executive session to discuss a legal matter and a personnel matter. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Jim Brinton and unanimously approved.

The Selectmen re-entered the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 6:11p.m. having taken no action in Executive Session.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:11p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dean Sarjeant, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant