

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Washington Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

Members Present: Wayne Hileman, Robyn Gray, Liz Fenton, Fran Keilty, Trish McMahon, Jim Brinton

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to order:** 3:03 pm by Michelle Gorra
2. **Approval of Minutes of Sept and Oct. Meeting Minutes:** Jim made a motion to approve the September, October and November Minutes. Trisha seconded, all voted in favor.
3. **Report on activities of Economic and Community Development Coordinator**
 - a. **New Homeowner Mailings** - 4 for November- definitely starting to slow down
 - b. **Newsletter**- Went out in December and was 12 pages. positive feedback
 - c. **Arts Council**- Did not meet this month, conflicting schedules. Goals moving forward are to work on the cultural district application
 - d. **Sidewalk Grant**- Did not receive the grant. Michelle has been in touch with the department of transportation and resubmitted for the next round- the towns that were awarded grants were larger than Washington. Will continue to reach out to DOT to get advice on moving forward.
 - e. **Affordable Housing**- Continuing to work with the intern, creating posts for the housing trust facebook page, had 60/70 people like the page with links to all of the housing missions. Zoning hearing Jan 8th about regulations.
 - f. **Winter Lights**- Darryl Wright and this team at Wright Electric were very helpful- Michelle believes they are close on the fundraising. Had a lot of great feedback
 - g. **Daycare grant** - we have an interim superintendent at region 12, which set the project back up again. We will most likely not be able to move forward in the time allowed by the grant.
4. **New Business-**
 - a. **Approve \$500 be contributed towards the winter lights**-Fran made a motion seconded by Liz Fenton to approve the purchase of winter lights, all in favor.
 - b. **Approve the calendar for 2024** -3rd Tuesday of every month, no holidays that were in conflict. Michelle will reach out to Lisa regarding time, Liz made a motion to approve the calendar seconded by Jim, all in favor
 - c. **Discuss having a "Restaurant Week" in Washington.** - A new website being established called Litchfield.co- Michael (the person who created the website) was thinking about sometime in March during the restaurant's slow time, to introduce a Restaurant Week to Washington. Kristen noted we should include the vineyards and galleries where they can have appetizers. Fran stated that we would need to start a conversation with the WBA, and the members there. EDC can help with the promotion of it. Fran will bring this to the WBA in January, Michelle and Michael can join the meeting if needed.
5. **Report of WBA & Selectmen on items not on the agenda-** Fran mentioned what a wonderful holiday in the depot, everyone had a great time. Robyn mentioned there were around 2,000 people who showed up to the Holiday in the Depot. Wayne said that fiber is being strung in Washington, but not yet lit.

Michelle brought up MLK Day on January 15th, Michelle is working with Judy Black Park from 9-11am. Will be giving all our nonprofits in town their chance to introduce themselves to the community. We will have soldier boxes there, and the library will do a story time and craft- around the theme of community/kindness.

6. Visitors

7. **Adjournment Motion to adjourn** by (not stated)

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale

Selectman's Assistant

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whFDY_ehfWE