

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Washington Economic Development Committee/ Commission

Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

Member Present; Rudy Montgelas, Trisha McMahon, Kristen Atlas, Dan Sherr, Fran Keilty, Robyn Gray, Tony Bedini

Public: Joan Lodsini

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to order:** Michelle Gora called the meeting to order at 3:02
2. **Approval of May Meeting Minutes;** May 16th; made by Rudy seconded by Kristen, all in favor.
3. **Report on activities of Economic and Community Development Coordinator**
 - a. **New home owner mailings-** A month behind on those, only 2 in May and 2 in April. Low inventory for housing. Did notice that a lot of property was transferred to Steep Rock.
 - b. **Newsletter-** went out Friday before the scheduled block party, had 12 pages, it was the longest newsletter we ever had- 25 different organizations submitted articles. We are over our anticipated budget for the newsletter this year since we went over the pages. Also now printing 200 extra copies instead of 100, bringing to the food market, Martys, Town Hall, the library, The Frederick Gunn School etc..
 - c. **Summer Postcard-** 29 events, the first postcard we made was 12. Printed enough for everyone in town and also printed 1,000 extra- Handing them out with realtors in town to give to their renters, some have gone to Woodbury, Rudy will take some to Kent State Park. Received great feedback from it.
 - d. **Parking Signs-** Small subcommittee working on signage around the depot. People don't realize there is parking behind the town hall or parking over at Titus. Michelle is going to purchase some municipal blue Parking Signs and put them on existing posts. Ordered 4 Yield to Pedestrians in the crosswalk signs. All got wrecked last year. The 2 we ordered for New Preston didn't have a spring so they were not repairable, all the new ones will have the springs.
 - e. **Welcome Center-** signs are being printed as we speak, hoping everyone will have an opportunity to get over there and check it out. Michelle has restocked the guide books there so they are definitely being picked up.
 - f. **WBA Breakfast & Business-** It's still happening, close to 20 businesses attended last time. Everyone is invited
 - g. **Block Party-** Unfortunately it was postponed, we were going to give away a beach pass as a raffle prize, they're planning on possibly rescheduling - Proposed new Block Party date at this time is September 1st.
 - h. **Washington Bike Day-** June 3rd, Michelle was there with the Bike Touring company, he brought 4 E Bikes for people to try, and it was a great time! Promoted biking in town, and to help the kids learn about bike safety.

- i. **Arts Council**- has put together a sandwich board. One side says “what’s happening in Washington” and the other side has copies of the guidebooks, info about steep rock, Judy Black Park events and any other current events. The photo contest is wrapping up for the spring- Summer is opening up shortly and we have gotten some very beautiful photographs! We’re going to have a photo show at the town hall with the submissions we received.
 - j. **Connectivity Grant**- to fund the Titus Sidewalk project in the Depot. The total project estimate was \$1.2 million dollars. Max amount for the grant is \$800,000. Working with the engineers who put together the concept plan. Goal is to start with the sidewalks starting at the plaza. Application is due July 21st.
- 4. New Business
 - 5. **Report of WBA & Selectmen on items not on the agenda** - There has been a request for an ordinance to ban Wave boats from Lake Waramaug because the damage it does to the lake but in order for that to be done an ordinance needs to be in place in Washington, Kent and Warren. The Transfer Station has also been a topic with the new composting, Bryde and the B left to Litchfield to a larger space, word that possibly a coffee shop may be going there. Flemings also closed, not entirely sure why.
 - 6. Visitors;
 - 7. Adjournment motion at 3:54P made by Kristen Atlas, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Reale
Selectman’s Assistant

Recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPAnFI7q-uA>