

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Economic Development Committee / Commission
Minutes
Tues, Feb. 16, 2021, 9:30 am

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Economic Development Committee

Present: Jim Brinton, Michelle Gorra, Julie King, Dan Sherr, Tony Bedini, Wayne Hileman, Jeffery Miller

Public: Julie King, Jay Hubelbank, Carole Matteo, Rev. Dr. Robyn Gray, Lance Reynolds, Chris Charles

1. Call to Order: 9:31 am
2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of January 19 2021 by Jim Brinton, seconded by Dan Sherr unanimously approved all in favor.
3. Report on activities of Economic and Community Development Coordinator
 - Affordable housing public form March 2nd at 7:00
 - Community Center-Public meeting well attended, the recording on the town website on WEDC page. The public had a lot of good questions.
 - Sustainability- February 10th was a productive meeting. Doing well with Sustainability intern. Had a representative from Judy Black, and Steep Rock. It's a group effort not just something that's being down by the town.
 - Sidewalks, reached out to the businesses in New Preston, will meet in early March to go over the plans with all of the different businesses. Also broadening the Depot sidewalk plan to include a parking and traffic study.
 - Print Newsletter- Will go out the first week of March, the feedback with the newsletter has been great, people want to be included. Thank you to Dan for writing several articles for this month
 - New home owners' mailings- In December there were 17 new home owners, they've been reaching out and asking great questions
 - Zoning 12.8- next meeting Feb. 22th, the Zoning Commission is revising the language, lots of public input.
 - Broadband- to work on and communicate with town, Wayne and the Planning Commission proposing an engineering study for the upcoming budget. One of the next steps will be to create a Broadband Committee-

4.New Business-

- a. New Businesses highlight
- b. Child care proposal
 - Want to present a concept and plan for a childcare in town.
 - There aren't any full-time care options in Washington for younger families, there used to be options in the past but those options are no longer here.

- Washington primary has REACH for ages 3 &, but the gap starts with the infant age to three years old, when there are no care options in town.
- the closest childcare options are Litchfield and New Milford.
- Proposal for consideration- make it easier for families with young children to live and work in and around the town of Washington by providing an affordable, full time licensed childcare solution that serves as a feeder to Region 12 Schools.
- Conducted a survey to all Region 12 families pre COVID (Washington, Roxbury, Bridgewater)
- 166 Respondents, 77 % of survey was completed by the female head of household.
- 80 % of respondents raised 2-4 children here.
- 47% of respondents enrolled their children in daycare.
- 40% of respondents indicated day care options were important when comparing one town to another.
- We do offer an aftercare program that was in opened in 2016
Supports k-5 children on school days on half days.
Averaging 24 children per year
- The ideal location to house this childcare would be the admin building next to WPS, it is extremely convenient for families to be able to drop off at one location.
- Target open date Fall 2022
- Enrollment would be given priority to Washington, followed by residents of surrounding towns.
- Ideally would like to fund it through the town and tuition, plus fundraising.

5. Selectmen's Report-

- The property surveys should be completed for New Preston regarding the sidewalk project.
- Every one of the merchants they spoke to was on board, the state has been very cooperative, the design should be done soon. Progress is being made with zoning.
- We do have more vaccine information; the volunteers are continuing to work with 65 and older

6. Adjournment 10:44, made my Michelle Gora

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale

Selectman's Assistant