

Town of Washington
Economic Development Committee

January 18, 2022- **Minutes**

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

Members Present: Jim Brinton, Dan Sherr, Fran Keilty, Lisa Stein, Robyn Gray, Kristen Atlas, Trisha McMahon, Tony Bedini

Public: Julia Nable, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsine, Susan Branson, Chris Charles

Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. Call to order- 3:05
2. Motion: To approve the WEDC minutes of December 21, 2021, by Dan Sherr seconded by Fran Keilty. All voted in favor.
3. Report on activities of Economic and Community Development Coordinator-
Will report on in the next agenda item, review of Annual Action Plan.
4. New Business
 - a. Review WEDC Annual Action Plan to date and plan for 2022-23 budget
 1. Advance the design and construction of the Community Center- no change
 2. Work with the Housing Commission to implement the Housing Plan. Money through the Housing Commission
 3. Continue to improve/ expand the audience engagement with the Town's print/social media to increase retail/non-profit economic support. EDC recommended continued funding with an increase for postage and extra printing.
 4. Explore broadband network- no change
 5. Sustainability CT- continue the work, including working with our farms and possible bike trails. No funding required
 6. Work with NOW sub-group on attracting young families, including services for families, real estate options and day care option. No change
 7. Continue to work with the WBA. No change
 8. Review pedestrian and parking options for the villages. No change
 9. Support and advance town and regional Arts & Culture organizations and events for 22-23 including non-profits. Add money to this item.
5. Old Business
 - a. Guidebook update

A small team of people have been working with Julia at Sandor Max to complete the updates needed. We will be adding sections for churches, schools and Gilmore Girls. We have a few more businesses to verify and will hopefully have a draft layout at the next meeting.

b. Kiosk/Welcome center.

Michelle met with Bob Papsin of the Buildings Commission and Pam Collins, Senior Center Director to discuss ideas for a “welcome center” concept at the Legion Hall. The ideas include: do some necessary painting and maintenance of the entry area, have an updated literature rack for guidebooks and or brochures, possibly put in a water bottle filler, hang a “Welcome Center” sign and hang an updated map of Washington. The restrooms are already open to the public and there has been no issue to date. It was mentioned that we should check the capacity of the septic system. We also need to meet with Pete Williams and the rest of the Buildings Commission to review the terms of the current lease. It was also suggested we have a designer consult with us. We will continue to research.

6. Report of WBA & Selectmen – nothing to add.
7. Visitors- no comments
8. Adjourn 4:35