

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Washington Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, September 20th, 2022- Minutes

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

Members Present: Dan Sherr, Wayne Hileman, Fran Keilty, Lisa Stein, Robyn Gray, Kristen Atlas, Trisha McMahon, Rudy Montgelas

Public: Simon Holt, Liz Fenton, Joan Lodsins, Margaret Ferguson

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to order:** Michelle Gora called the meeting to order at 3:03
2. **Motion:** Motion was made by Fran Keilty to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 minutes, seconded by Robyn Gray. All in favor.
3. **Report on activities of Economic and Community Development Coordinator**
 - a. **Newsletter-** The letters went out first week of October, everyone should receive them in your mailbox, positive feedback so far, if you haven't received a letter please reach out to Michelle.
 - b. **New home owner mailings-** Still doing the mailings for new home owners. The last ones went out in July, still having some new people move to town but not as many as middle of Covid.
 - c. **Pedestrian Signs-** The signs have been a challenge, the one in new Preston got hit again, the one in the depot also got hit. The business owners have been very supportive of the signs, they agree they're making it safer for people to cross the streets, so we will continue to use the signs.
 - d. **Harvest Fest** Oct. 9, in the past the EDC has had a table in the past, planning on having another table there this year just need some ideas on what we should have at the table.
 - e. **Winter Tree Lights**, the feedback to the winter lights has always been very positive. We ordered more lights last year, but unfortunately, they came too late so they never got hung last year. Sadly, the big maple in the front of the town hall lawn is coming down, it wasn't healthy, so he has to be removed. Thinking maybe we'll put the lights on another tree on town hall lawn? The green has interest in also adding lights to their trees. Sponsoring a tree is around \$3,000 that costs covers the cost of the lights, the rest is for the labor of the electrician and the arborist who go up in the tree with the bucket truck. The Smithy also has talked about sponsoring the trees by them, also at the PO. Dan offered to sponsor a tree.
 - f. **CT Mainstreet Workshop-** Michelle will attend Sept. 29.
 - g. **New Projects-**2 projects have been working with Jay Hubelbank, Wi-Fi in New Preston. Continuing to work on and go over with technician, we have public Wi-Fi in the Depot but since the Depot and also New Preston have such spotty service making Wi-Fi available in New Preston would be great for people visiting town. We also have been working on getting EV chargers. Eversource has some grant money to help put in these

7. Visitors
8. Adjournment motion at 4:10, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Reale
Selectman's Assistant

Link to meeting recording
<https://youtu.be/Heu9qBWstqU>