

Town of Washington  
Economic Development Committee  
March 15, 2022- **Minutes**

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

Members Present: Dan Sherr, Fran Keilty, Robyn Gray, Trisha McMahon, Wayne Hileman

Public: Joan Lodsins, Chris Charles, Linda Zukauskas, Leslie Anderson

Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. Call to order, 3:05
2. There was not a quorum so the approval of minutes will be moved to the next meeting.
3. Report on activities of the Economic and Community Development Coordinator:
  - 5 home sales in February but only 2 new households, 136 home sales in 2020, 93 in 2021. Selectmen's Friday email list at 1,257 up 125 in the last year. Would like to discuss ideas to continue to add residents.
  - Sustainability Committee will be setting up a table at Earth Day on April 23 at the Judy Black Park. One of their goals is to collect emails for the Selectman's Friday email because they realize how valuable a communication tool it is.
  - Newsletter went out first week in March. Was also brought to: the Market, the Hickory Stick, 9 Main, Marty's and the Library. We printed 200 extra for this purpose.
  - Community Center- fundraising committee is meeting and the programming committee is about to get started. Michelle had an initial meeting with one of the 7 community members that signed up to work on programming.

4. Old Business

a. Discuss revised annual plan for 2022-23.

Michelle shared the draft she put together showing the 9 goals of the EDC organized by primary responsibility. The EDC felt this helped clarify their primary responsibilities. She also shared the goals assigned to the EDC in the 2014 POCD. The committee will need to review for the development of the 2023 plan. Wayne commented that some of the goals were from Milone and MacBroom, who had been hired to help write the plan. Not all of the goals seem appropriate for Washington at this time.

b. Guidebook update- Fran shared the businesses that are interested in printing their own books with their logo on the back. We have 4,000 ordered so far not counting the WBA order. We needed 5,000 to maintain the quoted price. The WBA is discussing how many to order and is considering ordering extra to be placed at events just outside Washington. They will probably order at least 3,000. The committee also reviewed the first draft of the guidebook. There are a few items in red that need to be verified. A copy was shared with the committee and they have at least a week to proofread for errors.

c. Welcome center- The Buildings and Property Commission is working on getting estimates together for the painting and lighting improvements at Legion Hall. We have chosen a water fountain and are getting advice from a plumber before ordering. Michelle shared a mock-up of the new sign and the EDC had some suggestions for rewording some of the info. A new mock-up will be made and shared with the committee. Wayne asked that we double check the zoning sign regulations to make sure we are in compliance. It is a town owned building in a business district so we are allowed 16 square feet.

5. New business-

a. Update on Child Care- The construction estimates are not ready yet. Once the estimates are finished they will be shared with the Board of Selectmen. If the estimate is acceptable a town informational meeting will be scheduled. The child care will be run by a non-profit. Several people have volunteered to serve on the board and the EDC was asked if anyone would like to serve.

6. Report of WBA & Selectmen on items not on the agenda.

Fran shared that the big project for the WBA is the new guidebook. She also shared the date for the Block Party has been set for June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

7. Visitors had nothing to share.

8. Meeting adjourned at 4:05

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Gorra

Link to video recording of the meeting.

<https://youtu.be/Joxyjpm6HLs>