

Town of Washington
Economic Development Committee

Minutes

Tuesday June 21, 2022

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Economic Development Committee

Members Present: Jim Brinton, Dan Sherr, Fran Keilty, Lisa Stein, Robyn Gray, Kristen Atlas, Rudy Montgelas

Public Present: Liz Fenton, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsinn

Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. Call to order 3:02pm
2. Approval of minutes of May 17, 2022 motion by Fran Keilty, seconded by Kristen, all in favor.
3. Report on activities of Economic and Community Development Coordinator
 - a. Guidebook- Will have them in hand shortly, they're currently at the printers.
 - b. Newsletter- Went out already, had a lot of positive feedback from it, ordered an extra 200 copies and have been distributing them at the local restaurants and shops in the depot (Marty's, Hickory Stick, Food Market, Nine Main etc.)
 - c. Welcome Center- waiting on a plumber for the water fountain, not much of an update
 - d. New home owner mailing- Still doing them, there was only one home sold in may (multi home rental property)
 - e. Community Center Programming Committee- Had a meeting May 19- had a great meeting, great group of people with various backgrounds. We're planning on working on a survey to go out to the community probably going out later in the summer (we'll revisit this) Also have been visiting other community centers in the area
 - f. New Preston Sidewalks- Are completed! And they're beautiful.
 - g. Block Party- Was on June 3rd, and it was a huge success! Big kudos to the Parks and Rec Department and the Washington Business Association, also a thank you to Kristen and Trisha who helped work the EDC table and collected 30 new emails, had people picking up post cards, asking about all the different communications we do in town.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Child Care update- We had the public hearing June 9th, and it was a great turn out- close to 50 people attended. The power point and recording of the meeting are on the EDC website under the "Washington NOW Initiative" tab on the left side of the website.
 - Some of the feedback was that there is lots of interest, people were concerned that we have so much interest the space we're currently working with may not be large enough
 - Next steps- Grant opportunity for the renovation.
 - Also working on a STEAP grant

- The nonprofit will be established and have volunteers who said they would serve on the board

5. New Business

- a. Summer Postcard Distribution- Trying to get the card out in more places than we have in the past, trying to brainstorm some other places that would be willing to have them out for people to grab outside of Washington. Some thoughts include: Roxbury Market, Litchfield info stand, Kent area, the OutPost snack bar on Lake Waramug, also should see if The Mayflower would be willing to take some info cards for their visitors.
- b. Budget 21-22 update and possible expenditure. - We have almost fully expended our budget. Some of the things we have done this fiscal year have been- updating the guide book, printing post cards, doing design work for welcome center, design work daycare, community center fundraising brochures. We currently have \$1,000 left in our budget. Thought we could spend the remaining money on sidewalk safety signs. Biggest concerns are people speeding where the crosswalks are. Ideally, we should have one near Marty's, and one in new Preston near Plain Goods. Planning to order one for the depot and one for new Preston will talk to the businesses in that area and see if they can bring the signs inside at night. Committee felt this was a good idea.

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

- a. No report from the WBA, there hasn't been any formal meeting since the block party- Big thank you to Liz, at Five Janes for helping so much with the block party.
 - b. Selectmen's update from Jim- Calhoun bridge complete, Rabbit Hill should be complete by July 1st, hope to start working on the transfer station starting in July, have the transfer stations new hours while this renovation is going on - on the town website. There's lots of things in the works for the Transfer Station. One of our goals is going to be having a composting area at the station, everything is in place for it.
 - c. Litchfield Bank Corp is going to be leaving the depot. Their portion is going to be for sale. We're going to make sure that we move the mural into somewhere safe before the sale.

7. Adjournment made at 3:50 by Michelle Gorra

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Reale

Selectmen's Assistant

Zoom Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfHKskY07qA>