

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Post Office Box 383
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 1, 2023

7:30 P.M. – Hybrid Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hileman, C. Matteo, D. Rimsky

MEMBERS ABSENT: S. Gager

ALTERNATES PRESENT: D. Varnish, J. Averill

ALTERNATES ABSENT: S. Mongar

STAFF PRESENT: S. White, T. Rill

PUBLIC PRESENT: C. Charles

Chair Hileman called the meeting to order at 7:31pm

He then seated himself, D. Rimsky, C. Matteo, D. Varnish and J. Averill

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES:

To approve the February 1, 2023 Washington Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted, by C. Matteo, seconded by D. Rimsky, approved unanimously.

MOTION TO INCLUDE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No items to add.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

There are no new applications.

PENDING APPLICATIONS:

There are no pending applications.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES:

Sustainability Committee:

There were no updates at this time.

Economic Development Committee:

There were no updates at this time.

Broadband Committee:

Chair Hileman reported that he, along with First Selectman Brinton and Highway Department Director, Kevin Smith would be meeting with representatives from Frontier Communications to discuss plans for the installation of fiber optic cable for broadband in Washington.

He added that funding for a Feasibility Study has been approved.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION – 2023 PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Housing and Demographics:

Chair Hileman stated that the 2022 Affordable Housing Plan would be adopted into the 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development.

He added that the Commission may want to look at the subject of “middle” housing and add some things on the subject.

Demographics are a more complicated issue due to the skewed results of the Census that took place at the time of the pandemic.

The results claim that Washington lost 68 housing units. Land Use records show that 77 housing units were created. Chair Hileman explained that the Census Bureau does this for a reason referred to as “differential privacy” which protects the information filled out on a Census form to protect people’s identity.

Information obtained from the Assessor’s office will be helpful, but will not go back as far as needed.

None of this will be an issue moving forward, however.

D. Rinsky stated that the Commission may want to take a closer look at how the town is currently being used.

He added that the Zoning Commission, (PA 21-29 Subcommittee), has approached the Historic District regarding allowing affordable housing and multi-family housing in the Historic Districts.

The Commission is looking forward to the Subcommittee’s future proposal.

COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no communications for this evenings meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Reminder for Public Hearing – Revisions to the Subdivision Regulations:

The Public Hearing will take place on April 5, 2023 at 7:30pm in the Main Meeting Room of Bryan Memorial Town Hall and via Zoom Video Conference.

Reminder for the March 11, 2023 CBA Land Use Course:

The Connecticut Bar Association will hold the Land Use Course on Saturday, March 11, 2023 via Zoom Video Conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the March 1, 2023 Washington Planning Commission Meeting at 8:20pm, by D. Rimsky, seconded by C. Matteo, approved unanimously.

Meeting Recording can be found here:

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/trill_washingtonct_org/EXpW59F4hChEv6WITbGtCdGB6l-F3z3EqvHwtCitqM-m8g?e=m5neGG

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

Land Use Clerk

March 3, 2023

*Minutes filed, subject to approval