

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Post Office Box 383
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 5, 2023

7:30 P.M. – Hybrid Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: S. Gager

ALTERNATES PRESENT: J. Averill

ALTERNATES ABSENT: S. Mongar, D. Varnish

STAFF PRESENT: S. White, T. Rill, M. Gorra

PUBLIC PRESENT: J. Metcalf

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chair Hileman called the Public Hearing to order at 7:33pm.

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS:

Chair Hileman explained that the Subdivision Regulations were last revised 20 years ago.

The revisions were mostly “housekeeping” items, including revised definitions, omitting the phrase “rural character” to comply with Public Act 21-29.

The revisions were sent to the Planning Commission attorney as well as the North West Hills Council of Governments.

Chair Hileman asked the public to weigh in. There were no comments from the Public.

MOTION: To close the Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Revisions to the Town of Washington Subdivision Regulations, by Chair Hileman, seconded by J. Averill, approved unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING:

Chair Hileman called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:37pm.

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES:

To approve the March 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:**COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES:****Sustainability Committee:**

C. Matteo and M. Gorra reported that the Committee is currently promoting “No Mow May”, which allows for the pollinating of bees. Also, the Committee will have a table at Judy Black Park for Earth Day with information regarding “No Mow May” as well as the initiative involving the idling of cars.

And finally, the Committee is deciding whether or not they will be pursuing Silver Status from SustainableCT, as a number of new items have been added to the process.

Economic Development Committee:

M. Gorra reported that the Welcome Center at the Legion Hall is almost ready to open. The hours will be 9am-4pm, 7 days a week.

She added that the Art Council has been formed and they have officially met.

Broadband Committee:

Chair Hileman announced that he and First Selectman Brinton met with Frontier Communications and broadband is coming to Washington. Approximately 80% of the town will be covered and installation will begin this month at no cost to the town. Homeowners can expect to see reasonable rates for installation and service.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION – 2023 PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT:**Economic and Community Development:**

The Commission, along with Economic and Community Development Coordinator Michelle Gorra, discussed the what they felt were the priorities for this section of the POCD. The new Community Center, Titus Block Development, Better Jobs and Labor Data, Recreation, Education, Converting Office

Space, the Bee Brook Gateway, a child care facility, Agritourism, Art and Culture, and Housing made the list.

M. Gorra stated that she felt the “Goals and Objectives” should be revised from “Tax Base” to, “Vitality and Quality of Life”.

The Commission discussed Business Districts versus Village Centers and the importance of each., as well as the difference of each.

COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no communications for this evenings meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Proposed Revisions to the Subdivision Regulations:

MOTION: To approve the Proposed Revisions to the Town of Washington Subdivision Regulations, by C. Matteo, seconded by D. Rimsky, approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To Adjourn the April 5, 2023 Washington Planning Commission Meeting at 8:43pm by Chair Hileman, seconded by D. Rimsky, approved unanimously.

Meeting Recording can be found here:

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/trill_washingtonct_org/EVPhxIRaewdAmvBTYnssB8cBG29cZBgO1Q2HzfZSf-8aLg?e=u3RfGd

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

Land Use Clerk

April 6, 2023

*Minutes filed, subject to approval