

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Post Office Box 383
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794
Planning Commission Regular Meeting
MINUTES
May 3, 2023

7:30 P.M. – Hybrid Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: S. Gager

ALTERNATES PRESENT: J. Averill, D. Varnish

ALTERNATES ABSENT: S. Mongar

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: C. Charles, J. Metcalf

Chair Hileman called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Seated for this meeting is Chair Hileman, D. Rimsky, C. Matteo, D. Varnish, and J. Averill.

Consideration of the Minutes – April 5, 2023:

MOTION: To approve the April 5, 2023 Washington Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted, by C. Matteo, seconded by D. Rimsky, approved 5-0 vote.

Motion to Include Items Not on the Agenda:

No items to add to the Agenda

New Applications:

No new applications.

Pending Applications:

No pending applications

Committee Reports/Updates:

Sustainability:

C. Matteo stated that Earth Day was very successful this year. Information regarding the updated Transfer Station was provided, along with the “No Mow May” initiative. M. Gorra added that the Committee has decided to not obtain silver status from Sustainable CT as the program has added numerous items to the list of tasks that need to be completed to be granted silver status.

Economic Development Committee:

M. Gorra explained that Pels Matthews of The Matthews Group at William Raveis Real Estate, provided a presentation on the Housing Market at a recent meeting.

The presentation can be found here:

https://townofwashingtoncc-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/trill_washingtonct_org/EUd4x5GWCJ9JsNF_Lp0OV88B1T2nrTIYodYRePfSiy9KQg?e=nDzzFf

Broadband Committee:

Chair Hileman announced that Frontier Communications have began work in the area to prepare for fiber optic connection. The public can check on the status of fiber installation in their area by going to:

frontier.com/myfiber

Chair Hileman explained that there are additional funds left over in the State ARPA fund, as well as funds in the State Infrastructure Act. The Town of Washington has also set aside \$30k for a Broadband study. Chair Hileman suggested waiting to see what happens with Frontier before looking into the use of those funds.

Continued Discussion – 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development:

Village Centers:

The Commission discussed the current POCD and the goals set for Village Centers. Numerous goals were not met, however, the Commission felt that those overall goals should be left in the POCD and focused on. Discussion of a possible subcommittee made up of Planning and Zoning Commissioners as well as a possible progress report submitted to the Zoning Commission for their review.

Woodville; the Commission agreed that the area is not pedestrian focused, and questioned what the goals should be moving forward.

Marbledale: this area has the potential to be a true Village Center, as there are several shops, a post office, a bank and restaurants in this area.

New Preston: the updated sidewalks are a positive step forward to this Center.

The Commission discussed the work of the PA 21-29 Subcommittee, and the possibility of allowing multifamily housing in the R-1 district.

Discussion regarding the addition of Lake Waramaug as a category in the new POCD, as The Lake is its own entity.

C. Matteo reported that there will be a meeting regarding an ordinance involving wake boats on May 8, 2023 via Zoom. The Board of Selectmen from Washington, Warren and Kent will all be in attendance, as well as the Lake Waramaug Task Force and the Lake Waramaug Association.

The Depot and the Green: The goals for these Centers will not change overall.

Communications:

No Communications for this meeting.

Administrative Business:

M. Gorra announced that the Heads of the schools will hold a meeting on May 25, 2023 at 3:00pm at the Frederick Gunn School.

Adjourn:

MOTION: To adjourn the May 3, 2023 Washington Planning Commission Regular Meeting at 8:38pm by D. Varnish, seconded by C. Matteo, approved 5-0 vote.

Meeting Recording can be found here:

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/trill_washingtonct_org/EcNEK_XEGZdCmfZRkV7P4E8BFtYG9AKEPJhz2Rehn9UJoQ?e=XANJIF

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

Land Use Clerk

May 5, 2023

*Minutes filed, subject to approval