

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Post Office Box 383
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794
Planning Commission Regular Meeting
MINUTES
July 5, 2023

7:30 P.M. – Hybrid Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: S. Gager

ALTERNATES PRESENT: D. Varnish

ALTERNATES ABSENT: S. Mongar

STAFF PRESENT: S. White, M. Gorra

PUBLIC PRESENT: A. Jamieson (Voices), H. Barnet, D. Owen, C. Charles, B. Hagenbuch

Chair Hileman called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

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

Consideration of the Minutes – June 7, 2023:

The Commissioners noted that Ms. Rill forgot to include the time the June 7th meeting adjourned as well as who made the Motion. C. Matteo made the Motion and D. Varnish seconded.

MOTION: To approve the June 7, 2023 Washington Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as amended, by C. Matteo, seconded by D. Varnish, 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:

There was no update available.

Economic Development Committee:

M. Gorra stated that the Town of Washington will be applying for a grant to fund the repairs of the sidewalks on Titus Road. She asked if Chair Hileman would consider writing a letter of support for the sidewalk repair noting that the sidewalks are in major disrepair, and when completed would connect Titus Road to the other businesses in town.

Continued Discussion – 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development:

The Commission discussed the Zoning portion of the current POCD, with amending exclusionary Land Use policies being the main goal.

Prioritizing areas for more density – in villages, main roads, adjacent to current developed areas, farm and forest lands were suggested.

The Commission agreed that smaller lot size would be the best way to allow for more affordable, smaller housing.

Discussion regarding the regulations for Lake Waramaug and whether they should be stricter. The Commission discussed protection strategies for the Lake.

Regulations and navigating enforcement were discussed. The Commission questioned the possibility of short-term rental regulations, extra staffing for the Land Use Department as well as the possibility of hiring someone to review the current regulations for possible revisions.

Lastly, the Commission discussed the idea of combining Planning and Zoning Commissions. It was agreed that better communication between both parties would be helpful and much needed, but whether or not they should be combined was undecided, therefore it would not be recommended.

Communications:

No Communications for this meeting.

Administrative Business:

No Administrative Business for this meeting.

Adjourn:

MOTION: To adjourn the July 5, 2023 Washington Planning Commission Regular Meeting at 8:58pm by D. Rimsky, seconded by C. Matteo, approved 5-0 vote.

Meeting Recording can be found here:

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/trill_washingtonct_org/EdB2girvF6JEIXE0b0X3XR4BpxYMwsUmJETd3SOmLRgFRA?e=zhImXc

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

Tammy Rill

Land Use Clerk

July 6, 2023

***Minutes filed, subject to approval**