

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

**MINUTES**

May 6, 2020

7:30 P.M. – Meeting via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Hileman, Ms. Matteo, Mr. Rimsky

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Carey, Ms. Gager

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ms. White, Ms. Rill

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Mr. Sherr, Ms. Sherr, Mr. Charles, Ms. Branson

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

He then seated himself, Mr. Rimsky and Ms. Matteo.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES (9sec.):**

**MOTION:** To accept the April 1, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted, by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed 3-0 vote.

**PENDING APPLICATIONS (43sec.):**

There were no Pending Applications for this evenings meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS (45sec):**

**Economic Development Committee Update –**

Chairman Hileman informed the Commissioners that the Economic Development Committee did not meet last month, however they would be meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 9:30am. He stated that the Committee would be discussing how the businesses in the community have been doing since the pandemic. Chairman Hileman stated that the Committee would also be discussing plans for a proposed Senior Center, and that he would be update the Commission at the next Planning meeting in June.

**Sustainability Committee Update -**

Chairman Hileman stated that he was recently informed that Ms. Gager was no longer interested in being a member of the Sustainability Committee, therefore he asked the other Commission members if they would consider taking on the role. He stressed the importance of having a member of the Planning Commission willing to serve on the Committee. Chairman Hileman explained that at this time, he could not serve due to other commitments, but encouraged the other members to consider it.

**POCD – 5 year Revisions (3min. 43sec.):**

Chairman Hileman stated that the Board of Selectmen has done an excellent job at addressing their “check marks” and felt that they were on the right track as far as setting goals. He explained that the Zoning Commission needed to work on their end a bit, but until that happens, everything is on hold for now. Ms. Matteo asked if whether or not the Planning Commission would be taking Mr. Cole’s suggestions as far as moving forward with the Plan of Conservation and Development, and if they would be discussing it further at a later date. Chairman Hileman explained that he felt that the Board of Selectmen have been very receptive to going through Mr. Cole’s suggestions and have been doing an excellent job at including those suggestions and taking them into consideration. Mr. Rimsky stated that he felt that Mr. Cole had done an amazing job at putting together a lot of useful information for the revisions and would really like to see them through. Chairman Hileman stated that he wholeheartedly agreed.

**COMMUNICATIONS (7min.25sec.):**

Chairman Hileman announced that he has been formally asked by First Selectman Jim Brinton to join a newly formed Committee in Washington that will be addressing the long-term recovery of the town after the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that Connecticut’s governor, Ned Lamont, has asked each of the 169 municipalities in the State to form such Committee to essentially identify and address the needs of residents and businesses throughout the town, for approximately six months or so. Mr. Rimsky stated that he was also asked to join the Committee and was going to be doing so as well.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS (9min 32sec.):**

There was no Administrative Business for this evenings meeting.

The Commission made mention of the exceptional job that First Selectman Jim Brinton, as well as the Board of Selectman and local volunteers, have done during this crisis.

Chairman Hileman informed the Commission that the First Congregational Church would be holding a Food Drive on Sunday, May 17, 2020 to benefit the Warren and New Milford Food Banks. Toiletries and other household items are being sought along with food donations. Organizers of the event plan on a “socially distanced” drop off, with volunteers retrieving donations from vehicles directly.

The Commission had a brief discussion regarding the private schools in Washington and how the pandemic must be affecting their financial outlook. Chairman Hileman is hoping that a conversation will happen between town and school leaders sometime soon.

Mr. Sherr shared that all of the Town of Washington rental homes were filled, and is hoping that some of the renters are considering making the move to Washington.

**MOTION: To adjourn the May 6, 2020 Washington Planning Commission Meeting at 8:01pm, by M. Rimsky, seconded by Ms. Matteo, passed 3-0 vote.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill  
Land Use Clerk  
May 11, 2020