

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Post Office Box 383
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794
Planning Commission Regular Meeting
MINUTES
July 1, 2020

7:30 P.M. – Meeting via Zoom

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Gager

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. White, Ms. Rill

PUBLIC PRESENT: Mr. Sherr, Ms. Zukauskas, Mr. Lloyd, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Charles

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES (22sec.):

MOTION: To accept the June 3, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted, by Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Ms. Matteo, passed 4-0 vote.

PENDING APPLICATIONS (54sec.):

There were no Pending Applications for this evenings meeting.

NEW APPLICATIONS (1min. 10sec.):

- Request of Lloyd, 231 Romford Road, for consideration of Scenic Road Designation, Romford Road.

MOTION: To schedule the Public Hearing at the Request of Lloyd, 231 Romford Road, for consideration of Scenic Road Designation, Romford Road, for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom Virtual Meeting, by Chairman Hileman, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed 4-0 vote.

Mr. Lloyd, the Applicant, informed Chairman Hileman that he and his wife may not be available for the August 5, 2020 meeting, and questioned whether this would affect their application process. Chairman

Hileman stated that it would not affect the process, but the meeting would be held via Zoom if that made attendance easier. Chairman Hileman invited Mr. Lloyd to give a brief description of their application to the Commission.

Mr. Lloyd thanked the Commission for their efforts and involvement in the Plan of Conservation and Development as well as recognizing the beauty and importance of Washington's scenic roads. Mr. Lloyd explained that Romford Road meets all six of the requirements to be deemed a Scenic Road, and that all of the town roads that intersect Romford Road with the exception of Sabbaday Lane, Route 109 and Route 202 are all designated Scenic. Mr. Lloyd stated that he and Ms. Lloyd followed the requirements for the Scenic Road application and had petitions representing 88% of the linear road frontage property owners as defined by the tax assessor cards, or by GIS map data.

Chairman Hileman thanked the Lloyd's and urged them to be in touch with Ms. White and Ms. Rill in the Land Use Department so that they could guide them through the next steps of the process.

Mr. Rimsky asked Mr. Lloyd if any of the neighbors that he had approached were against the Scenic Road application. Mr. Lloyd explained that he had zero objections, however there were a few property owners that did not feel comfortable petitioning due to an eventual transfer of title in probate. He stated that there were also a few that did not want to transfer paperwork due to COVID-19 concerns.

Chairman Hileman thanked the Lloyd's for their time.

Economic Development Committee (12min. 11sec):

Chairman Hileman stated that the Committee did not meet last month, however there would be a meeting on the second Tuesday in July at 9:30am via Zoom. He announced that the WiFi project in the Depot was almost complete. Also, the Board of Selectmen are actively searching for an Economic Development Coordinator. This will be a contractor position totaling 28 hours per week.

Sustainability Committee (17 min. 32sec.):

Chairman Hileman informed the Commission that the Sustainability Committee is currently looking for a Chairman, and is hoping for an update in progress soon.

POCD – 5 year Revisions (19min 54sec.):

Chairman Hileman informed the Commission that at the June Zoning Commission meeting, they had discussed the Planning Commission's letter for Zoning Regulation Section 3.2 – Zoning District Boundaries, and expanding the waiver for both the Depot and Woodville sections of Washington. He stated that the Zoning Commission had not scheduled a Public Hearing for the matter yet, but stated that the Commission seemed open to discussing the issue.

Communications (20min. 18sec.):

There were no Communications for this evenings meeting.

Administrative Business (20min. 22sec.):

Chairman Hileman stated that The Steep Rock Association is in the process of seeking some State grants to acquire some parcels of land to permanently preserve as open space. They had asked Chairman Hileman to write a letter on their behalf stating that this aligned with the Plan of Conservation and Development, and Chairman Hileman agreed to do so.

Mr. Rimsky mentioned that he had noticed the latest update regarding Steep Rock and the closure of Tunnel Road. Mr. Rimsky voiced concern over whether or not this could be a permanent closure, stating that this would be a detriment to the community and the park, explaining that Tunnel Road is a town owned road and closing it would mean anyone with physical restrictions would not be able to enjoy the area. Chairman Hileman asked Mr. Lloyd, who is a trustee of Steep Rock Association, if he was able to give any insight to the issue. Mr. Lloyd suggested that Mr. Rimsky reach out to the Executive Director of Steep Rock. Mr. Lloyd shared his email information with Mr. Rimsky so that he could connect Mr. Rimsky to the Executive Director.

Finally, Chairman Hileman informed the Commission that money was delegated in the town budget to purchase new Land Use maps in preparation for the 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development. He added that there was a new layout for the Tax Assessors webpage on the Town of Washington website called "q-Public", and that the new Land Use maps would have the capability to be added digitally to the Assessor's current map, and overlay wetlands, conserved land, as well as any maps that will be made.

MOTION: To adjourn the July 1, 2020 Washington Planning Commission Meeting at 8:02pm, by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed 4-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill
Land Use Clerk
July 7, 2020