TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Bryan Memorial Town Hall

Post Office Box 383

Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794

Planning Commission Regular Meeting

**MINUTES**

January 6, 2021

7:30 P.M. – Meeting via Zoom

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Carey

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT**: Mr. Charles, Ms. Gorra, Ms. Solomon. Mr. Barnet

**REGULAR MEETING:**

Chairman Hileman called the Meeting to Order at 7:30pm.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES**:

**MOTION: To accept the December 2, 2020 Washington Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted, by Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Ms. Matteo, passed 4-0 vote.**

Ms. Gager arrived at 7:36pm and was then seated by Chairman Hileman.

**NEW APPLICATIONS**:

There were no New Applications for this evenings meeting.

**PENDING APPLICATIONS:**

There were no Pending Applications for this evenings meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES:**

Sustainability Committee**:**

Ms. Matteo stated that the Sustainability Committee had met, and had accomplished quite a bit. She stated that the Committee was questioning if the Land Use maps had been updated as of yet. Chairman Hileman explained that money had been put aside in last year’s budget for the updated maps, however, he needed to meet with Ms. White to discuss their options.

Ms. Matteo went on to explain that the Committee had discussed the Plan of Conservation and Development in regards to the proposed Community Center. She stated that the Committee are hoping that the Center will be energy efficient and state-of-the-art.

Ms. Gorra explained that there have been many discussions regarding energy efficiency of the proposed Community Center including solar and geo-thermal energy. Ms. Gorra announced that there would be a public meeting on Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom, to brainstorm with the community.

Economic Development Committee:

Ms. Gorra stated that Holiday in the Depot was a great success and brought the community together in a positive way for the holidays.

Affordable Housing Committee:

Mr. Mongar stated that the next Housing Commission meeting was going to take place on January 12, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Ms. Gorra stated that the Housing Commission had put out a survey a few months ago regarding affordable housing in Washington. So far, the survey had 220 responses. There would also be another survey focused specifically to Washington area businesses for their employees input on housing needs.

Re-opening Committee:

Mr. Rimsky stated that the Re-opening Committee would hold a meeting on January 15th, 2021. He stated that there had been an increase in positive cases in town, and the Committee was brainstorming ways to have a pro-active outreach in the community – particularly the elderly and most vulnerable. Mr. Rimsky then informed the Commissioners that some First Responders in town were scheduled to receive the Covid vaccine.

**OTHER UPDATES:**

March 2020 Letter from Planning Commission to Zoning Commission requesting Revisions to Zoning Regulations re: Section 3.2 – Zoning District Boundaries:

Ms. White informed the Commission that she had been in touch with Attorney Zizka regarding the Revision request, and he was hesitant of using the term “waiver”. Ms. White also explained that Zoning Commission Chairman, Mr. Solley, was hesitant to change revisions that former Zoning Chairman, David Owen, had made regarding setbacks and frontage in Washington Depot.

Chairman Hileman questioned why this would be an issue, stating that the revision would allow an applicant to ask for a waiver through Special Exception on a case-by-case basis. Ms. White stated that she felt it would be a good idea for herself and Chairman Hileman to meet and discuss a way to present this to the Zoning Commission.

Preliminary Discussion– 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development:

Chairman Hileman informed the Commissioners that he would like to start discussing the 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development, and whether the Commission felt that an update of the current POCD was acceptable, or if they felt it needed to be completely re-written.

Chairman Hileman explained that the current 2014 plan is a re-write, and the 2003 plan was an updated version of the 1993 plan.

The Commissioners discussed many options for moving forward, including possible pricing of an update in comparison to a re-write. Chairman Hileman stated that he would like to go through the current plan to “weed through” what the Commission felt needed to be completely re-written, what needed an update, and what was fine, as-is, in the POCD.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were no Communications for this evenings meeting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

Revision of the Subdivision Regulations:

Chairman Hileman explained that the Subdivision Regulations have not been updated since 2000, and felt that it was time to continue updating. The Commission agreed. Chairman Hileman stated that once the revisions are made, they will then be sent to the Commission’s Attorney, and from there the revisions will go to Public Hearing.

Alternate Commission Members:

Chairman Hileman stated that the Planning Commission has openings for Alternate members and encouraged the Commissioners to think of possibilities to fill the openings.

Election of Officers:

Mr. Rimsky nominated Chairman Hileman for Planning Commission Chairman, seconded by Ms. Matteo, approved unanimously.

Chairman Hileman nominated Mr. Rimsky as Planning Commission Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Mongar, approved unanimously.

**MOTION: To adjourn the January 6, 2021 Washington Planning Commission Meeting at 8:31pm, by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Mr. Mongar, passed 5-0 vote.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

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Land Use Clerk

January 12, 2021