**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

March 1, 2017

7:30 p.m. Main Level Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Mr. Hileman, Mr. Rimsky, Ms. Jahnke,

Mr. Carey

**Members Absent:** Ms. Gager

**Alternates Present:** Mr. Bedini

**Alternates Absent:** Ms. Ryland

**Staff Present:** Mrs. Hill**,** Ms. Pennell

**Regular Meeting:**

Mr. Hileman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Seated:** Mr. Hileman, Mr. Rimsky, Ms. Jahnke, Mr. Carey, Alt.

Mr. Bedini

**Consideration of the Minutes:**

**Motion:** To accept the February 1, 2017 meeting minutes as submitted. By Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed 5-0 vote.

**Pending Applications:**

**Washington Community Housing Trust/181 New Milford Turnpike/3 Lot Subdivision:**

Mr. Hileman reminded Commission members of the site inspection Special Meeting scheduled at noon on Saturday, March 25, 2017 for this application.

Mr. Hileman stated the Conservation Commission has looked at this application. He noted the Conservation Commission has recommended to waive the Open Space requirement, as it is affordable housing and a very small lot. Mr. Hileman also stated that because the WCHT is a non-profit entity, they have had application fees waived in the past and suggested that the Planning Commission may consider doing this as well.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Plan of Conservation and Development:**

**Sustainability Subcommittee Report:**

Ms. Jahnke reported that no meeting was held. She stated she has sent an email to members in an effort to schedule a meeting for March 13, 2017, but those that have responded thus far stated they were not able to attend on that date. Ms. Jahnke did inform the Commission that she will be away as of March 18, 2017 for about a month.

**Economic Development Advisory Committee Report:**

Mr. Hileman stated the Committee met on February 28, 2017. He noted that the First Selectman Mark Lyon has confirmed that the Committee’s line item budget of $55,000.00 is still in place.

Mr. Hileman also informed the Commission that there has been progress with signage. Mr. Bedini reported that he has been trying to get in touch with staff from the State Department of Transportation with some difficulty. However, a staff member by the name of Gina is to get back to him. When she does do so, Mr. Bedini has paperwork in order for three signs, including the proposed locations, maps and photos. He stated if they receive permission to move forward, they will do so. Members discussed the signs and locations.

Mr. Hileman noted that the Gilmore Girls Festival will not be held in Washington Depot this year due to conflicts with the Town’s calendar vs the dates they desired. He stated the individuals running this festival have chosen to hold it in Kent, CT. However, Mr. Hileman stated they are considering holding one event during this festival in the Depot. Members noted the Town’s success in hosting this event.

Mr. Hileman stated there is a new marketing committee formed that has done preliminary work with CERC and has a draft they are working on. He noted they will be meeting in late April and this draft should be completed by then.

Mr. Hileman discussed the Northwest Council of Governments (NWCOG) survey that Commission members, as well as residents in town, had taken last year. He briefly reported on these results as compared to the surrounding 21 towns, noting that Washington’s answers were quite different than the surrounding towns. One example Mr. Hileman referenced was Washington’s number one desire was to attract and maintain young families and it ranked third on the list for the region. He stated the 21 surrounding town’s number one desire was to protect water quality. Mr. Hileman had copies of the results for members interested in reviewing them further.

**Plaza Improvement Committee Report:**

Mr. Rimsky stated no meeting was held. He reported that as of last week, First Selectman Mark Lyon had not heard from the State regarding going out for bid.

**Revision of the Subdivision Regulations:**

Mr. Hileman stated he would be emailing the revisions to date out to all members. He requested they review them and make comments if they choose. He stated they will begin to go through these revisions in the near future. He briefly explained how this would be done with the use of the main level meeting room and the equipment available to make the process go effectively.

**Communications:**

**Referral from DEEP/Application by Lake Waramaug Country Club for Request for Reauthorization under the General Permit for Diversion of Water for Consumptive Use**:

Mrs. Hill stated that Zoning and Planning Commissions received the same referral and suggested it could possibly be a state law that this referral/application be sent to the Commissions. She informed the members that no cover letter was enclosed with referral. Mrs. Hill explained that this is an application that the Lake Waramaug Country Club sent to the DEEP to request permission to draw water from the Lake Waramaug for use at the country club. Mr. Hileman questioned if this was a courtesy to the Commissions. Mrs. Hill stated that this could be a courtesy, but without a cover letter explaining the referral, she was not certain. She thought it possible that a public hearing may be scheduled in the future in which interested parties could attend to voice their concerns.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. By Mr. Hileman, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed 5-0 vote.

**FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Respectfully Submitted,

By:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Donna Pennell, Land Use Clerk

March 7, 2017