TOWN OF WASHINGTON

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT**

**PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

June 3, 2015

7:30 Upper Level Mtg Room

**Members Present:** Ms. Gager,Mr.Frank, Mr. Rimsky, Mr. Carey

**Members Absent:** Ms. Jahnke

**Alternates Present:** Mr. Bedini, Mr. Hileman

**Alternates Absent:** Ms. Ryland

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

**Also:** Mr. Sherr**,** Mr. Lyon

REGULAR MEETING:

Ms. Gager called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Seated:** Mr. Frank, Ms. Gager, Mr. Carey, Mr. Bedini, Mr. Hileman

Privilege of the Floor

*Economic Development Coordinator*

 First Selectman, Mark Lyon addressed the commission concerning the

 status of the Economic Development Coordinator proposal. He reported that there was an approved line item in the 2015-2016 Budget and that advertising of requests for proposals for the position had been approved by the selectmen and placed in local newspapers. He also said the selectmen are proposing to organize an “Economic Development Committee.” This group would be comprised of members from Planning, Zoning, Wetlands, Finance, a couple of members of the Washington Business Association, someone from the Depot area, someone from the MarbleDale-New Preston area. This would bring the membership up to about eight, but there was discussion concerning the advantage of a possible smaller number. The new Economic Development Coordinator would report to this group. If this committee becomes a viable group and the work is continued, they would consider having a rotating term for membership.

 Ms. Gager asked if there had been any thought of having someone from the general public on this committee, and Mr. Lyon said that was a good suggestion and would be considered. Mr. Hileman commented that the presently existing advisory subcommittee would disband when the new committee is formed. Mr. Bedini recommended about having an “ad hoc” committee that would work in liaison with the Economic Development Coordinator and the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Lyon went on to say the bid proposals are due back in two weeks. The board of selectmen will create a four person selection committee to conduct interviews. That will probably be a four person selection committee.

*Plaza Improvement Update*

First Selectman, Mark Lyon spoke to the commission about the status of the Bryan Memorial Plaza Improvement Project. Mr. Lyon said that the selectmen, the VHB engineering firm, TPA Design Group, and the DOT liaison had agreed upon scope of work, hours and estimated cost. This information went to the State DOT and was rejected as beyond the scope of the grant. This was resolved by specifying that the Town’s commitment of about $200,000 would be upfront for design and the State grant of $670,000 would be devoted to construction. The focus of the grant is to enhance pedestrian traffic, bicycle traffic, parking, and ADA accessibility. After a design is produced and cost estimates are made, there will be a public hearing concerning the plan.

Consideration of the Minutes:

The Commissioners considered the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 06, 2015.

**Motion:** to accept the May 06, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes of

the Planning Commission as written, by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Carey, passed by 5 – 0 vote.

Other Business:

Mr. Carey referred to the recent proceeding for a resubdivision of the Smith property at 279 New Milford Turnpike in which the applicant’s structural engineer had reported substantial issues concerning the safety and adequacy of the small property access bridge over the East Aspetuck River. He thinks the commissioners should take it one step further. Ms. Gager reminded everyone that the application had been withdrawn, which ended the commission’s role in the matter. There was a discussion of the safety issue and concern that that the bridge may not be safe for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles. It was decided that the commission should send a letter to the selectmen advising them of the safety concerns.

Communications:

The 5/22/15 Freedom of Information Request Letter from Atty. Slater for documents the referral by the Zoning Commission of a proposed regulation change was distributed to the commissioners. Mrs. Hill had replied with copies of the documents relating to the request.

Adjournment:

**Motion:** to adjourn at 8:15 pm, by Ms. Gager, seconded by

Mr. Hileman, passed 5 – 0 vote.

**SUBMITTED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL:**

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Linda Nelson, Land Use Clerk 06-05-15

**A recording of this meeting is available to the public in the Land Use Office.**