**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**February 26, 2015**

***Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.***

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman Richard O. Carey.

Public: Joan Lodsin, Chris Charles, Nick Solley.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. noting that Selectman Jay Hubelbank would not be attending this evening’s meeting due to a change in time of a meeting he needed to attend.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey and unanimously approved.

**Communications:**

* **Blackville Road culvert/road improvement by DOT:** Several residents of Blackville Road and Sabbaday Lane have written First Selectman (and the State DOT) with concerns regarding the proposed improvements to Blackville Road and the replacement of the culvert. These concerns stem from the proposed straightening and widening of a portion of Blackville Road – encouraging faster travel - and the removal of a barn. Mark explained that the DOT did hold a public hearing at which the project was explained to interested residents and an opportunity was given for questions and concerns. Depending on what stage the engineers are at, it may not be possible for plans to be changed. Mark will meet with the residents.

**First Selectman’s Report:** Mark Lyon reported the following:

* **Homeland Towers:** Ray Vergatihas responded to Mark’s letter and will begin paying their monthly rent retroactive to October 1, 2014. Mr. Vergati further explained that Homeland is also anxious for AT&T to install their antenna and to begin providing cellular service. He will be providing contact information for AT&T as well as other carriers.
* **Chestnut Lane and Birch Hill Run:** Several weeks ago, it was brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen by residents of Chestnut Land and Birch Hill Run that their wells had a high level of sodium chloride. The Town’s Health Department, along with the State DEEP, have studied and tested the wells and although there is no proof at this time that the Town has caused this problem, it has been recommended that as a precaution the Town only plow these two roads without using any de-icing materials.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Girls Scout Day Proclamation: Motion:** To proclaim March 12, 2015 as Girl Scout Day by the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, March 12, 2015, marks the 103rd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which began in 1912 when Savannah, GA native Juliette Gordon Low gathered 18 girls to provide them the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually;

WHEREAS, 1912 was also the year in which Girl Scouting started in the state of Connecticut;

 WHEREAS, for more than 100 years, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence, and character who act to make the world a better place; and,

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience helps girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place; and,

WHEREAS, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, Girl Scouts of Connecticut offers the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more than 38,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Connecticut; and,

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, requires girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community, assess a need and design a solution, find the resources and support to make it happen, and complete the project;

WHEREAS, core programs around environmental stewardship, anti-bullying techniques, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and healthy living, help girls develop a solid foundation in leadership; and,

WHEREAS, today, more than 59 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae and 2.8 million girls and adult volunteers are active members;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark E. Lyon, by virtue of the authority vested in me as First Selectman of the Town of Washington, CT, do hereby applaud the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for more than 100 years of leadership and expertise as the voice for and of girls, proudly proclaim March 12, 2015, as Girl Scout Day. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dick Carey. Discussion: Mark Lyon explained that a group of young women have again started a Girl Scout troop in Washington and it is doing very well! The motion passed unanimously.

**Visitors:**

* **Chris Charles** inquired as to the status of the Plaza Project. Mark Lyon explained that the Engineer/Design Company and the Supervision Engineer with the State are working on the number of hours required to complete the scope of work. Once this is determined and approved, the Town and the Engineering Firm can go to contract and work can start. Public meetings and Land Use applications and permits will need to be held and gotten before actual work can begin. Chris asked if it were realistic to think construction could begin in Spring 2016. Mark feels that it is possible but may be an ambitious estimate.
* **Nick Solley** was asked by Selectman Dick Carey to report on the status of a policy regarding the rental of the Town Hall once construction, painting, etc. is completed – particularly the Main Hall. Nick explained the Buildings and Properties Commission has been working on a Policy and is nearing completion. Renting of the Main Hall may need to be limited due to the new construction and the difficulty of catering large events as a result. The Upstairs Hall can be rented for smaller affairs. The B & P Commission will continue working on the draft and may be able to review it with the Board of Selectmen in two weeks.
* **Joan Lodsin** inquired about the new website’s stating the Hall is available for rental. Mary Anne Greene offered to look into this and how it was worded.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dick Carey, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Secretary