**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**July 14, 2016**

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

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen David Werkhoven and Jay Hubelbank.

Public: Delisse Locher, “Rocky” Tomlinson, Leslie Anderson, Tom Mitchell, Chris Charles, Nick Solley, John Payne.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

**MOTION:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda: discussion with Assessor Delisse Locher re: road address issue. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the June 30, 2016 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

**Communications:**

* **ZBA Public Hearing Notice** re: 104 River Road change in elevation for a garage. No Town action is required.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

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

* **Aquarian Water Company** is completing work on Kirby Road and Ferry Bridge Road. They will then begin work on Wykeham Road. Repaving of the sidewalk on Kirby Road will be done when the work by the Water Company is complete. Parking in front of the Woodruff House may be eliminated.
* **Economic Development Survey** is on the Town’s website, Gunn Library’s and Washington Business Association websites through Labor Day. A postcard will also be sent to postal patrons inviting residents to participate.
* **Washington Ambulance Association** is sponsoring a Mental Health First Aid Workshop on July 19 and 26 at the Bee Brook Firehouse.
* **Plaza Renovation Public Information Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m.
* **Break-in at West Church Hill Road residence** continues to be an ongoing investigation by the police. Juvenile warrants are being worked on through the proper channels. Once these are completed, the police and/or Town will be issuing information to the public.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Worcester Road off River Road:** Assessor Delisse Locher attended this evening’s meeting to present and endorse a suggestion by Emergency Management Coordinator, Rocky Tomlinson, that the section of Worcester Road from River Road to the abandoned section of road, be renamed. Worcester Road is also accessed from Church Hill Road (Route 109). The center section of the road has been abandoned for many years. There is a safety concern as the senior housing complex is on the section off River Road and service providers often cannot locate it as GPS directions etc. bring them to Worcester Road off Route 109. There was discussion as to whether the abandoned section should be formally discontinued (adjoining property owners would need to be notified and in agreement) and then the section off River Road be renamed. The selectmen would need to make the recommendation to discontinue to the Planning Commission. If in agreement, there would be a public hearing and then a Town Meeting for final approval. **Motion:** To authorize Mark Lyon to research the proper procedure for discontinuing a section of a road and renaming a section. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:**

* **Leslie Anderson** inquired about the ad for a Director and Assistant Director for an After School Program at the Washington Primary School. Mark Lyon explained that this was proposed by Michelle Gorra and Emily Judd (WPS Principal) – it would be sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission and would be self-funded by registration fees and grant monies.
* **Nick Solley** was asked about the possibility of renting Pavilion Hall in New Preston by the Washington Art Association (very preliminary idea) while renovations are done on their building. Mark Lyon explained he had again contacted Town Attorney, David Miles, for counsel on renting and/or possibly selling with restrictions.
* **John Payne** attended this evening’s meeting to discuss the lack of information that has been put forth by the Town and/or Police regarding the break-in of a home on West Church Hill Road. John feels that the public has a right to be informed about such issues as it effects safety and security of other homes. Mark Lyon explained the legal process when juveniles are involved. Warrants are being processed. Resident Trooper Steve Sordi has also inquired about releasing information to the public and he has been told this cannot yet be done as it is an ongoing investigation. John feels the selectmen have a responsibility and obligation to the public to keep townspeople informed. Mark assured the public that information would be published as soon as authorized to do so. In response to the claim that other police news is released and published, Mark explained that the circumstances involved are very different. There is also an issue of little or no press coverage by the local papers – on any Town issues.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dave Werkhoven, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Secretary