**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**August 23, 2018**

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

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

Public: Jay Combs.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**MOTION:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: Appointments to the Sustainability Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 9, 2018 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

**Communications:**

* **Letter from Louise Van Tartwijk:** Mrs. Van Tarkwijk has requested the following letter be read and made a part of these minutes:

 Louise van Tartwijk

51 Ferry Bridge Road

Washington, CT 06793

August 20,1018

To the Selectmen

Dear Mr. Lyon, Mr. Werkhoven and Mr.Hublebank,

I noticed the following paragraph in the minutes of your August 9th Board of Selectmen meeting:

"Joan Lodsin attended this evenings meeting to discuss: 1) the filming of Zoning Commission meetings: Joan, who is an alternate member of the Zoning Commission, explained that the last three Zoning meetings have been filmed. According to Joan, Chairman Nick Solley explained that this was being done for archiving in the Town records and would also be aired on Charter TV. Joan is not opposed to filming, but was not comfortable with the explanation. If archiving was the purpose, perhaps all commission meetings should be filmed. Mark Lyon explained that all meetings are public and can be filmed however the Town was not archiving these recordings and the activity should have been explained as a personal project — not something endorsed by the Selectmen or Town. Mark Lyon will speak with Nick Solley to clarify the situation "

I wish to address Ms. Lodsins' concerns, as I was the person who did the filming of the July 19, July 23 and August 7 Zoning Commission meetings, although I am not noted as doing such in the Zoning Commission minutes for those 3 dates. Nor is Chairman Solley’s complete explanation for the filming of the public hearings included in the written minutes. These omissions in the Zoning Committee minutes illustrate precisely why a video recording is so advantageous. The words left out of the written record can cause misunderstandings and misrepresentations. I would hope this is corrected in the minutes from those meetings.

At the beginning of all 3 meetings It is clearly stated by Chairman Solley (in the video, and I assume on the audio record), that Louise van Tartwijk, representing Charter Communications CT-192 in Newtown, is making a video record of the town public hearing because we (the Town) do not have a Washington reporter who covers these important events. He states that the videos will be used as a public information service and as historical documentation. At no time is "archiving in the town records" mentioned, nor does Chairman Solley state that the filming is "endorsed by the Selectman or the Town. "

Ms. Lodsin is correct that the videos will be aired on Charter Community television. The first airing will be this Saturday the 25th at 9:00am and again on Sunday the 26th at the same time. I agree with her that it would be advantageous to have all commission meetings recorded in this way. The difficult part is to find the local person with the ability and the time to devote to it.

I request that this letter be read at your next Board of Selectman meeting and be included in the minutes in its entirety.

Thank you for your time.



* **Note from Helen Bartlett** complimenting Animal Control Officer, Cynthia Brissett, for her dedication in helping to locate their dog.

**Appointments/Resignations:**

* **Sustainability Committee:** Jay Hubelbank explained that as the Selectmen had previously passed a Resolution for the Town to join the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program, a committee now needed to be appointed. Previously the Planning Commission had a Sustainability sub-committee that will be reactivated. **Motion:** To appoint the following members of the Sustainability Committee: Sarah Gager (Chairman), Susan Payne, Monique Gil-Rogers, Carrie Rowe, Chris Charles, Peter Armstrong, Jay Hubelbank. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved. Jay Hubelbank will register this information with the State.

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

* **Romford Road Bridge:** Work will be completed tomorrow and will officially be open to traffic on Saturday, August 25th. Some minor work may need to be done but will not affect it’s being open.
* **Chipsealing and sweeping** of roads is complete.
* **Judea Cemetery Road and a portion of Plumb Hill Road** have been reclaimed and repaved and the paving of aprons, etc. has been completed.
* **Baldwin Hill Road** will have a weight limit posted which will leave the road open for smaller trucks and prohibit the larger trucks from using the road.
* **Gunn Hill Road** has required a great deal of work over the years due to washouts, poor drainage, etc. Because it is a “Scenic Road” the Town is limited in what work can be done to make improvements. Mark Lyon and Kevin Smith have met with Land Use Coordinator Janet Hill to discuss the process involved in making the necessary improvements which would include paving a section of the road.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Transfer Station Upgrade:** Jay Hubelbank has contacted Steve McDonald of WMC Engineering to further discuss the installation of compactors and the power needed to operate them. A meeting will be scheduled.
* **WiFi in the Depot:** Various options are still being explored.
* **Region 12 AGSTEM Project:** Sign offs by Building Official Bill Jenks and Fire Marshall Tom Osborne have been cone. The bidding process should begin soon with hopes of getting them submitted in October and work beginning shortly thereafter.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Request to waive the fee for the use of the Main Hall by Rotary Club:** Jay Combs, President of the Washington Rotary Club, attended this evenings meeting to request that the fee be waived for use of the Main Hall on September 22, 2018 for their art show and auction. All proceeds will be returned to the community to support the following projects: Judea Garden, Shepaug Scholarships, Fuel Fund, Volunteer Reception and ASAP. **Motion:** To waive the fee for use of the Main Hall by the Washington Rotary Club on September 22, 2018. A Certificate of Insurance is required, a Deposit of $1500 and payment of custodial fees will be the responsibility of the Rotary Club. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.
* **Request to waive the fee for the use of the Main Hall by ASAP:** ASAP Executive Director JoAnne Torti, has written the Selectmen requesting the fee for use of the Town Hall on November 4, 2018 for ASAP’s Celebration of Young Photographers event. The event is free of charge, open to the public and the students will be recognized for their work. **Motion:** To waive the fee for use of the Main Hall by ASAP on November 4, 2018. A Certificate of Insurance is required, a Deposit of $1500 and payment of custodial fees will be the responsibility of the ASAP! Clean up will need to be done at the conclusion of the event as the Main Hall will be set up on Monday for Election Day on Tuesday. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.
* **River Road Easement:** Susan Jahnke, River Road, is in the process of selling her home. It has been discovered in the land records that the old railroad bed runs between her property and the road and is legally the property of the Town. A variance was granted years ago for building her home. Town Attorney Randy DiBella is working on changing the language in the variance to become a legal easement.
* **Special Selectmen’s Meeting:** August 30, 2018 (time to be determined). Agenda: Awarding of the bid for Resurfacing of the Tennis Courts, Jahnke Easement, Abandoned section of Mt. Tom Road.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:57p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dave Werkhoven, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Secretary