



Washington Economic Development Committee
Meeting Sept 25, 2018
Notes

Agenda:

> Five Senses Festival Review – Itamar Kubovy

Highlights – The intent of the Five Senses Festival was to create a community experience. This extended to the preparation and delivery of the event including construction, food preparation and installations – 200 “contractors” were involved in setup and preparation.

Funding is not possible for Pilobolus as a non-profit using it’s earned income compacity. Private community is required. The Ingrassia’S and major community investors provided the infrastructure. Pilobolus, with it’s extensive network of artists, provided the programming. This economic model enables community affordable ticket pricing for events – 4000 attendees, 600 kids and 75 artists.

Pilobolus has applied for a special events permit for 2019. It is an exact duplicate of the 2018 events and calendar. If the zoning regulations are changes to seven “consecutive” days or three days, the Festival is not economically feasible.

The long-term intent is to establish the Washington Pilobolus Five Senses Festival as an International Arts & Culture Brand. A joint commitment of private-public community involvement is required along with regulations that encourage A&C programming in Washington.

> Gigabyte/WIFI Service to the Depot Update

Insite Wireless Group, the owner of Town cell phone tower, has agreed to make the tower available to the Town to provide Wi-Fi service in the Depot. With repeaters, coverage may be extended beyond the business district and include Depot residences as well. Light Tower, the provider of fiber service in Washington has merged with Crown Caste. The newly merged company has not yet indicated the best course for this initiative.

> Young Families Update – Not available

> Senior Center – Community Conversation

The WEDC approached the Connecticut Community Foundation/Older Adults for guidance in conducting a conversation and survey of the community on services/facilities for seniors. CCF encouraged WEDC to apply for a \$2000 grant in support of the WEDC Conversation with the Community planned for the Spring 2019.

Additionally, CCF introduced WEDC to Loryn Ray, Director of Senior Services, Woodbury. As a result, the WEDC has been invited to a Woodbury Conversation with Community October 24, 2018. CCF considers Woodbury a “best practices” model for providing senior services to the community.

> Bee Brook PopUp Park

With the signing of Town lease with the Booth's for community access/use of 38 Bee Brook Road, the WEDC has been proceeding with improvements to make it function as a Town park. This includes the installation signage, Washington Garden Club Planters and picnic tables.

> Rte. 47 A&C Axis – Summer 2018

Consensus is that the WWA Sculpture Trail, Judy Black programming including the First Friday events and Pilobolus Five Senses Festival made a major contribution to the social and economic well being of Washington. Conversations and plans are already underway to develop A&C programs for 2019.

> Rte. 47 Wellness Loop

The Wellness Loop was approved by the CT Department of Transportation. However, a change in Town regulations will reroute larger truck traffic, currently using Baldwin Hill Road, to Rtes. 202 and 47. Traffic is expected to increase significantly on Rte. 47. With increasing concern for the safety of pedestrian users of the Rte. 47 shoulder lanes, the Wellness Loop project has been suspended.

> Colors of the Litchfield Hills Update

Consistent with the NH COG POCD urging the promotion of Arts & Culture in the NW Corner, 9 Towns – Kent, Cornwall, Warren, Washington/New Preston, Litchfield/Bantam, Morris, Goshen - have selected a vendor to develop/implement a scrolling website that promotes the major A&C programming in each Town. With direct linkage to Town websites, this supplements local websites which confine their programming to the Town. The Colors website informs locals, weekenders and visitors to all the major A&C events in the southern communities of the NW Hills. With all towns contributing, Washington's share of the funding is \$1250. Hilary Adorno is the chosen provider.

> New Preston Sidewalks

At the request of the major New Preston merchants, the WEDC met with Bill Seitz to review their interests in improving the sidewalks in the Village. A preliminary plan was outlined. The Town and a likely vendor developed a plan and cost estimate (\$63,000) to advance discussions with the merchants.

The Colors of the Litchfield Hills Arts & Culture Website

The Situation:

- > The Litchfield Hills Towns produce an amazing number of Arts & Culture Events throughout the year.
- > **Arts & Culture is a major economic engine for the Region.**
- > Access to a centralized listing – A&C Events Calendar – for residents and visitors is limited. Most towns promote their own events but not those of nearby towns.
- > Rtes. 7, 202 and 109 provide the primary access to the Litchfield Hills
- > **9 Towns, including Washington (and New Preston) are the gateway(s) to the NW Hills**

Project Outline

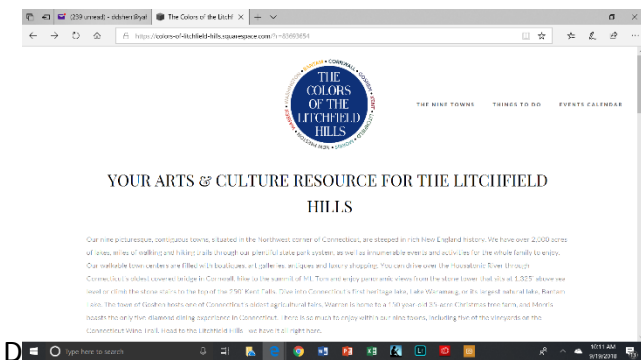
- > Organize the nine gateway towns as an adhoc economic development unit.
 - > **Implement a promotable Event Calendar for the 9 gateway towns**
 - > **Each town provide funding to develop and maintain an all-screens event calendar website - The Colors of the Litchfield Hills**
 - > Year 2 - Develop 9 towns seasonal programming particularly winter (Jan-Mar)
- Footnote – Hilary Adorno has been selected to develop, implement and maintain the Colors Website. Funding and content support will be provided by each Color town. Launch date is targeted for EOY 2018.

WEDC – Washington – New Preston is a Colors Town

- > **Provide funding of \$1250 for July 2018 – June 2019 fiscal year (included in the 2018 - 2019 WEDC budget)**
- > **Appoint Angel Burton as the Communications Coordinator to provide the content to Colors Website**
- > **Provide quarterly reports to the WEDC**

Colors of the Litchfield Hills Towns

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|------------|---------------|----------|
| ✓ Kent | ✓ Washington | ✓ Bantam |
| ✓ Cornwall | ✓ New Preston | ✓ Morris |
| ✓ Warren | ✓ Litchfield | ✓ Goshen |





WEDC Project: Improve the New Preston Pedestrian Sidewalks and Walkways

Goal: Ensure the safety of pedestrians in the business district of New Preston. Rte. 45, New Preston Hill Rd and Main Street pedestrian access/safety are critical to the economic advance of New Preston.

Project:

- > Refresh the crossings on New Preston Hill Rd and Route 45 at the Main Street Intersection
- > Install a crossing at Church St
- > Add a “painted sidewalk marking” from Church St to the Rte. 45 crossing
- > Resurface/refresh the existing sidewalk from the New Preston Hill crossing to Church St
- > Re-establish the street storm drain on Rte. 45 between Schulman and Privet.

DDS/TB 091818