



Washington Economic Development Committee
Tues, Jan 22, 2019, 9:30AM
Town Hall Conference Room

Notes:

> Washington by the Numbers – Housing - Wayne Hileman
Part 3 – Housing has been rescheduled to a later meeting.

> Gigabyte/Wifi Depot – Jay Hublebank

Jay Hubelbank reviewed the best-in-plan financials for WiFi in the Depot and high-speed internet for the businesses in the Depot and along Rte. 47 to the Fire House. As an initial step, the WEDC voted to propose \$25K funding for the 2019 – 2020 Town capital budget.

> Washington Senior Services – Organizing a Conversation on Aging – Update #2

Dan Sherr reviewed progress in the planned conduct of a Conversation on Adult Services in Washington in late April. The target date is mid-April. Seven (7) members of the steering committee will gather for the first planning meeting Wed, Jan 23 to launch the project. The framework for the Conversation is modeled after an approach used by Woodbury and Roxbury. Funding for the Conversation will be covered by a \$2K grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation.

> Young Working Families – Organizing a Conversation with the Community

Michael Jackson led a discussion of attracting young working families to Washington. Region 12 has agreed to provide support and marketing for the initiative. Private funding for student debt reduction is the centerpoint of the initiative. The Washington Community Housing Trust will manage the donations with a steering committee being recruited to launch and manage the project.

> WEDC 2019 – 2020 Plan Review – See the EDC Municipal Website for the 2019 – 2020 Plan

Dan Sherr reviewed/discussed the WEDC 2019 – 2020 Plan/Budget. Key discussion points in the review were

> A pre-review was conducted with Mark Lyon and he approved the plan/budget for presentation to the Committee.

> In response to a request and discussion of performance metrics, communications (Google), conversational and commercial occupancy rates were offered as clear confirmation of progress. The communications metric will be reviewed in detail at a future WEDC meeting.

> Metrics for a Thinkabator (joint workspace, business incubator) proposal were requested and will be provided at a future WEDC meeting. The metrics will be based on the progress of the Bank Street Makery in New Milford.

> The Booth's have indicated an interest in renewing the \$1.00 annual lease of the 38 Bee Brook Road property with the Town of Washington. A "Park & Ride" for advanced distance bicyclists is under consideration. A meeting has been scheduled with the Booth's for Tues, Jan 29th.

> An ongoing conversation with the leading New Preston merchants on sidewalks and parking was updated by Dan Sherr. A proposal to replace the sidewalks has been developed by the Town. Based on further reviews with the merchants, a capital request may be proposed for the 2019 – 2020 budget.

> The 2019 – 2020 WEDC Plan/Budget was proposed for the 2019 – 2020 Annual Town Budget.