



WEDC Meeting Tues, Jun 12, 2018 Notes

- **Senior Center**
Proposal to rebuild the current Veterans Hall Senior Center doubling the size of the community rooms discussed. WEDC requested documentation of current usage and consideration of other options. Concern voiced about available parking.
- **Gigabyte WiFi Service**
Brief review of conversation with R12 and PURA ruling limiting the use of the community power poles. Unlikely to have any impact on WED Gigabyte WiFi initiative.
- **Bee Brook PopUp Park**
Reviewed the continuing investment of Mark & Lauren Booth to the refreshment of 38 Bee Brook Road. Town preparing to sign \$1.00 lease thru end of 2018. Events and sports facilities planned. Concerns voiced about food trucks even those tied to a specific events.
- **Washington Town Greenway**
The Town is partnering with Steep Rock to clear and maintain the Washington Greenway from the Steep Rock Riding Ring to Hidden Valley Preserve.
- **LH Gateway**
The 9 Towns at the lower end of Litchfield County are developing a tourism website – Colors of Litchfield Hills – to broadcast the Arts & Culture events for the “gateway towns”. Launch date is late summer inform the residents and the down country families of the Fall events in NW CT.
- **Burbio**
Washington and the Northwest Hills Council of Government are involved in several major initiatives involving off-the-shelf Event Calendar Websites similar to Burbio.

Washington Economic Development

Senior Center

Issue: With an aging Town population expected to represent 1/3 of residents in 7 years, develop a plan to provide social services to the senior population of Washington.

Guidance:

- > scale the facility to provide the needed services of the seniors population
- > no cost for the land
- > public-private funding for the building/furnishings
- > Town funding for operations

Washington Seniors Population:

	2000	2010	2015	2025	% Chge 2000 – 2025 (One Generation)
Median Age	43	50	52	57	33%
65 & over	569	735	864	1019	79%
% 65 & over	16%	21%	25%	32%	Doubled

Adjoining Town Senior Centers – Comparisons - Facility Square Footage

- > Washington 1544 (converted historic building)
- > Roxbury 2014 (converted town hall)
- > Bridgewater 2077 (New)
- > Morris 2367 (New adjoining town senior housing)
- > Litchfield 13,000 (New Community Center)

Senior Services (2014 survey)

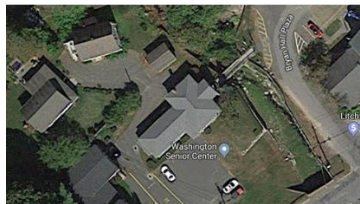
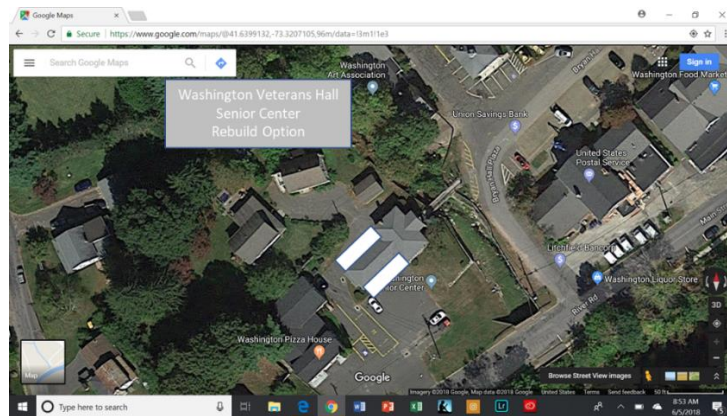
- > Exercise 83% Yes
 - Equipment
- > Academic Programs 83% Yes
 - Local history
 - Current events
- > Arts & Crafts 75% Yes
 - Cards
 - Needlework
 - Art
 - Cooking
- > Outdoors 82% Yes
 - Hiking
 - Gardening
- > Day trips 64% Yes

Options

Veterans Hall

> Current State - established footprint, central location/village center, shared use, no material updating/rehab, north basement wall seriously weakened/leaking.

> Rebuild/refurnish – Replace the Community Room and the basement. Expand the Community Room to the full width of the front services section. Increase total size to 2200 sq. ft.



Build new

> 4000 Senior Center

> 8000 Community Center

Rte 47 Next to Firehouse – convenient location, removed from Depot, ample parking, outdoor/ walking opportunities, design to latest standards.

s Park – convenient location, walkable to the Depot, available parking, design to latest standard.


**Bee Brook
PopUp Park**



June 12, 2018 Update:

- ✓ Very strong support from the Booth's, commitment to the Town
- ✓ Major rehab underway provided by the Booth's
- ✓ \$1.00 Town Lease thru end of 2018
- ✓ Facilities – bathroom, sports
- ✓ Events in planning (Lauren Booth) – Five Senses Festival, Movies, Food/drink trucks for events
- ✓ Events coordinated with Town
- ✓ Town to provide planters, picnic tables [budgeted]