

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes**  
**May 28, 2020**

**Meeting held via Video Conferencing**

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

**Present:** First Selectman Jim Brinton; Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Michelle Gorra.  
**Public:** Dan Sherr, Peter Duncan, Anthony Bedini, Bob Papsin, Christopher Charles, Larry Gendron, Wayne Hileman.  
**Press:** Lance Reynolds, Linda Zukauskas.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Jim Brinton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting of the Board of selectmen by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. The motion passed unanimously.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignation:**

Jim Brinton introduced Larry Gendron as a possible appointment to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Larry has expressed interest in serving. He has a home on Wykeham Road which he has owned for over thirty years and works as a magazine designer in New York. While here on weekends, he has helped out the Fuths at Starberry Farm, served on the Steep Rock Board of Trustees, likes to fly fish and hunt, and is particularly interested in water testing and wetlands. Larry was asked if there would be an issue attending meetings and site visits and he has discussed this with chairman Bob Papsin; he is planning to attend and would like to commit to the alternate position. The Board thanked him for his willingness to serve.

**Motion:** To appoint Larry Gendron as an alternate on the Inland Wetlands Commission until 06/30/2022 by Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Michelle Gorra. The motion passed unanimously.

**First Selectman's Report:**

- **Parks and Recreation Department's** programs and activities are cancelled. As we move closer to the June 20<sup>th</sup> Phase II, there is the possibility of starting to reopen playgrounds, tennis courts, and ball fields. The Washington Town Beach is still questionable. The town needs more data and direction from the State of Connecticut. Currently, Governor Lamont is allowing beaches along the coast to open but not inland waters.
- **Town Employees and First Responders** have been offered the opportunity to be tested at DOC's Medical Group in New Milford for COVID-19 and/or for antibodies. To date a dozen or so employees have taken advantage of the testing and all results have been negative. The Long Term Recovery Committee has discussed employees of businesses being tested to provide a level of comfort in the work place. Jim is also considering a drive-through testing for town residents, possibly at the Washington Primary School; it would be the nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19 only, not the blood drawn for the antibodies. He will update at next meeting.

- **Tax Deferral Program.** has received three applications by the Tax Collector. Two were withdrawn when the procedures were explained. Deadline is June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Road Repair.** Kevin Smith reported to Jim that currently the highway department has repaired roads with either asphalt or chip sealing. The asphalt lasts 18 – 20 years and costs approximately \$240,000 a mile; chip sealing is a fraction of the cost at \$40,000 a mile but lasts 5 years. There is a new method called ultra thin pavement and would cost \$70,000 per mile and would last 12 years. The road has to be in the right condition, not too far gone. There are three companies in the state that provide ultra thin pavement and Kevin will contact them. He would like to try a test on a portion of Nettleton Hollow Road from Route 109 to Clark Road. The board will be updated at the next meeting and also look at the funds for road repair in the budget. There was discussion about state roads and how repairs are scheduled. Jim and Kevin are meeting with state road representatives to talk about the curbing and drainage at the New Preston Falls and will discuss all road issues and highlight certain ones in particular (i.e., Green Hill Road – Route #47).
- **Reopening of the State.** Emergency responders are comfortable with what the state is supplying and will continue to update preparations for a possible outbreak again in the fall.
- **Governor's Executive Order.** The order concerns health and land use departments requirements for outside dining. The executive order is to be signed by the Board of Selectmen and will then be filed in the Town Clerk's office. Jim will visit the area restaurants this weekend.

**Old Business:**

- **WiFi in the Depot:** Jay Hubelbank reported work is still being done. There is a tree on the property of Washington Primary School that is blocking the signal. Kevin Smith will consider trimming branches or having the tree removed.
- **Job Descriptions.** Drafts were sent out to town employees for individual review. Jay Hubelbank will ask Jeff Hammond to send out one more final draft with any changes and the descriptions will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**New Business:**

- **Inter-Community Agreement with BRRFOC.** The town is in good shape working with BRRFOC and Jim will sign the agreement. Jay mentioned the 2020-2021 budget includes funds for overhauling of the transfer station and purchasing more compactors.  
**Motion:** To approve continued participation as members of the BRRFOC and authorize Jim Brinton as First Selectman to sign the Inter-Community Agreement on behalf of the municipality by Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Michelle Gorra. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Bryan Memorial Town Hall Dome.** The Bryan Memorial Town Hall Board of Trustees will donate the funds to cover the cost of the work being done on the dome and cupola. Originally budgeted as a capital request, it will be zeroed out; sidewalks and lawn repairs were paid out of the non-recurring capital budget. Tony Bedini, of Buildings and Property, explained the work includes window seals, gold leaf, and replacing boards. They have discovered more rotting than expected and, while the scaffolding is in place, they will repair.

- Motion:** To approve work to be done on the Bryan Memorial Town Hall dome and to accept the donation from the Bryan Memorial Town Hall Board of Trustees that will cover the cost of the work by Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. The motion carried unanimously.
- **Picnic Tables.** Michelle Gorra suggested the town purchase more picnic tables for Washington Depot and New Preston to help local businesses accommodate customers.
  - **Affordable Housing Plan.** Michelle Gorra and members of the Housing Commission will attend a meeting of the Northwest Council of Government to discuss the AHP.

**Visitors:**

- **Peter Duncan** inquired about the police presence on Lake Waramaug. Is it necessary to have a police boat patrolling the lake? He has researched State of Connecticut requirements and there seems to be none. The boat is fifteen years old and depreciating. Jim reported the body of the boat is in good shape but needs a new motor that will be funded by Washington, Warren, and Kent; Washington's portion will be \$20,000 and there is a line item in the budget for this. The police coverage is overseen by the Interlocal Association and the Lake Waramaug Authority. Jim will talk to Resident State Trooper Matt Costella and report back with updated information on the police coverage of the lake.

**Adjournment:**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM as there was no further business for discussion by Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Michelle Gorra. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Anson  
Acting Clerk  
June 1, 2020