

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Washington Depot, CT

PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES

October 1, 2019

7:30p.m.

Main Level Meeting Room

Members Present: Mr. Hileman, Mr. Cole, Mr. Rimsky

Members Absent: Mr. Carey, Ms. Gager

Alternates Present: Ms. Matteo

Staff Present: Ms. White, Ms. Rill

Public Present: Ms. Gorra, Mr. Hubelbank

Chairman Hileman called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. He then seated himself, Mr. Rimsky, Mr. Cole and Ms. Matteo

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES (19 sec.):

MOTION: To approve the September 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes, by Chairman Hileman, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed 5-0 vote.

PENDING APPLICATION(S) (51sec.):

There are no Pending Applications this evening.

OTHER BUSINESS (59sec):

Chairman Hileman stated that he would like to move Agenda Item D – Referral from Zoning Commission of Section 12.8 – Temporary Uses, to the top of the Agenda list this evening. The Commission discussed Chairman Hileman’s letter to the Zoning Commission Chairman, Mr. Solley, and agreed unanimously that it should be sent forth to the Washington Zoning Commission before their upcoming Public Hearing on October 28, 2019.

MOTION: To approve Chairman Hileman’s letter regarding the Referral of Zoning Regulation Section 12.8 – Temporary Uses, by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed 4-0 vote.

Economic Development Committee Update (3min13sec.):

Chairman Hileman informed the Commission that the Economic Development Committee met last month and were very pleased with the Summer Events that took place. The Litchfield Jazz Festival has agreed to come back to the Gunnery School again next Summer, and was well attended this year. It was noted that The 5 Senses Festival sold the most tickets out of all of the events held this Summer combined.

WiFi in the Depot is making headway with the line of site work for the antennae completed. The projected time of completion looks to be the end of the calendar year.

Senior Services had sent out a survey earlier this year and had approximately 350 responses. The survey was a way to reach out to the senior population in Washington, to get a feel of what they felt was important and what they felt needed to become more of a priority in town regarding the elderly. The Committee was interested in hearing that a majority of those responding felt safe in their home and community, however, they were concerned for isolated and alone seniors and felt their needed to be more of an outreach program for them.

**The results of this survey can be found on the Town of Washington website:

www.washingtonct.org.

Sustainability Committee (11min56sec):

Commission member, Ms. Gager was not present to give an update this evening.

POCD – 5 year Revisions 12min 04sec):

Mr. Cole has spent numerous months collecting information from Boards and Commissions in Washington to gauge where each Commission was as far as using the 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development and what they felt needed to be worked on or attended to. He met with Mr. Solley, Chairman of the Zoning Commission, Ms. Payne, Chairwoman of the Conservation Commission, and Mr. Hubelbank, member of the Board of Selectman, as well as the Economic Development Committee. He stated that of all of the Commissions that he met with, the Economic Development Committee had the clearest vision of what they needed to get done and what the POCD goals and objectives were.

Mr. Cole stated that his take away from this process was that each Commission had tasks that they felt were important for their specific Commission, and sometimes those goals aligned with the Plan of Conservation and Development, but it was not a main focus. He stated that the benefit of strategic thinking was lost when this occurs.

The Commission discussed the three villages, Washington, New Preston and Marbledale, and brainstormed possible ways of reaching out to each district, specifically New Preston and Marbledale, to find out what their needs may be, and how to effectively reach their goals.

Mr. Rimsky stated that he felt that Marbledale should be high on the list of priorities as far as the POCD was concerned, listing a number of shops, restaurants and businesses that could benefit from the attention.

Mr. Hubelbank stated that when he became a Selectman, he did not receive any information regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development, but had heard of it. He said that he did not realize at the time just how involved the Board of Selectmen were or were supposed to be, and had wished that there was a more effective way to communicate exactly what each Board and Commission was responsible for.

Mr. Cole suggested that asking each Commission and Board to add the POCD to their Agenda perhaps once every quarter so that it was not easily forgotten.

Ms. White stated that she would like to see a Commissioner Welcome Packet that could be handed out when a person is appointed or voted in to a Commission/Board that includes the POCD and what is expected of them as a member.

Mr. Rimsky would like to see better communication between all of the Boards and Commissions, and believes a meeting of each chairman/woman could be effective.

Chairman Hileman stated that he supports this idea, and believes in the importance of having an agenda for such meeting would make it more effective and easier to focus on tasks. He offered to take all of the ideas discussed tonight and present them at next week's Economic Development Committee Meeting. The Commission agreed.

The Commission discussed effective ways the town could invest in itself so that it thrives. Hiring more staff such as an Economic Director was suggested. Mr. Cole questioned how the Planning Commission could get these suggestions to the public. Chairman Hileman said he believes that Mr. Cole's report should be made public first, and suggested eventually having some sort of public forum to present this information to residents.

Chairman Hileman stated that he would like to put a list together of 3-5 items of importance to bring to the public at a forum in the future. The Commission believed that Senior Housing was a huge issue, as well as an Economic Director hire, and communication with all local schools are the top three issues that need some work for the moment, but would discuss further at a later date.

Mr. Cole stated that he would make a few minor corrections to his report and pass it on the the Planning Commission as well as the Land Use Office to have on file.

COMMUNICATIONS (1hr. 19min 34sec.):

There were no communications for this evening.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS (1hr. 19min. 39sec.):

There was no Administrative Business this evening.

MOTION: To adjourn the October 1, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting at 8:50pm, by Chairman Hileman, seconded by Mr. Cole, passed 4-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

Tammy Rill
Land Use Clerk
October 4, 2019

***All documents on file in the Land Use Office**

****Minutes subject to approval**

*****A recording of this meeting is available upon request**

