

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 14, 2019

Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Seletmen

Present: First Selectman Mark Lyon, Selectman David Werkhoven.

Public: Jim Brinton, Michelle Gorra, Lillian Lyon, Tom Osborne, Chris Charles, Elizabeth Rea, Peter Talbot, LaClaire Rattery.

Call to Order: First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 31, 2019 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. BY Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Resignation of Dirk Sabin from the Conservation Commission: Motion:** To accept the resignation of Dirk Sabin from the Conservation Commission with gratitude for his years of service. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.
- **Appointment of Debra Radosevich as a full member of the Zoning Commission until 11/2021.** By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven. Discussion: this appointment is made to fill the vacancy created by the death of Peter Armstrong. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of Rebecca Rebillard as an alternate on the Zoning Commission: Motion:** To appoint Rebecca Rebillard as an alternate on the Zoning Commissions to fill the term that expires in 11/2023. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven. Discussion: This appointment is made at the recommendation of Chairman Nick Solley. Rebecca will be placed on the ballot for the 2021 Municipal Election. The motion passed unanimously.

First Selectman's Report: Mark Lyon reported the following:

- **AT&T Cell Tower:** Mark has received notification that InSite has applied to the Siting Council to change antennas on the cell tower located on Blackville Road and is awaiting approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Transfer Station Compactor:** The Selectmen will follow up on the order placed for the compactor to be placed at the Transfer Station for recyclables. The pad and power is in.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Elizabeth Rea re: West Church Hill Road and Lower Church Hill Road:** As a result of Ms. Rea's, and other residents of West Church Hill Road, voicing concern over the paving of the lower portion of West Church Hill Road, Mark Lyon and Highway Director Kevin Smith met with her and Peter Talbot to discuss how this could be improved and to discuss further the application made for West Church Hill Road to be designated as a Scenic Road. As a result of the meeting, the portion that has been paved will receive an "armour" coat of a stone to differentiate it from the standard chip seal on Lower Church Hill Road. Signage will also be installed on both ends of West Church Hill indicating No Thru Trucks, single lane, etc. Peter Talbot asked that the following communication be made part of this record:

Dear Mark, current BoS & incoming BoS members

I'd like to thank, Mark & David Werkhoven for their service to the Town of Washington.

In the transition of administrations Elizabeth & I would like to be on the record regarding a couple of items related to the West Church Hill (East) Scenic Road Application to Planning Commission & related work on that road. The Public Hearing is scheduled for December 4th. She started

shepherding this application through the process in 2013 with the aspiration that this quaint, winding, narrow, gravel road would remain in tact as a thread tying those that travel it the past of Washington.

Given that West Church Hill has not received it's designation none of the 4 residents were notified or had a chance to comment on the proposed work by the Town and their sub contractors.

It came as surprise to Elizabeth and the other neighbors when they became aware that 500 +/- feet of this 15'+- wide gravel was to be paved at a width of approx. 22', starting this week, Monday 11.11.19.

Week before last, Elizabeth asked that I review the situation with her and meet with Mark and Planning prior to the paving to insure that West Church Hill remain a clearly secondary road off Lower Church Hill.

Unfortunately the 1st layer of paving was done the morning of the Planning Meeting last week and the second coat on Friday, granted, at a slight deduction in width from the first, with the promise that the surface would receive a top coat of round pea stone "armour" coat in the Spring.

This apparently is what the current administration is willing to provide. Elizabeth & other owners along the road had hoped that the paving never be installed or if paved at 18', max 19' in width intersecting at no more than 24¹ in width tangentially to Lower Church Hill.

For the record and moving forward, we ask that the current administration request that the incoming BOS, at a minimum, hold to the assurances that the paved portion of West Church Hill receive an "armour" coat of a stone to differentiated it from the standard chip seal on Lower Church. In addition that the edge between the two materials of the two roads follow the arc of Lower Church Hill, directing drivers around the corner not inadvertently up West Church Hill.

In addition to the above, we ask the new administration to please consider the following:

1. Develop a comprehensive approach of communications between the Town, the Residents and the Land Use Offices to minimise this sort of thing
2. Be sure that such paving and upgrades to Town Infrastructure is noticed on the Town website (Lower Church Hill was, but not West Church Hill)
3. In regards to specifically West Church Hill coordinate & work with the property owners on:
 - o Road signage that identifies the road as " no through trucks" and " unpaved road" or some such wording, along with making the existing 15 MPH sign more visible to alert drivers this no the continuation of Lower Church Hill and to the character of the road they are entering at both ends.
 - o Armour Coat finish - Kevin Smith has agreed the Town would install a beige pea stone that is often used on residential driveways, whether that is the right material/color or not, it should be differentiated from the chip seal surface of Lower Church Hill
 - o Given that West Church Hill is interrupted by Fenn Hill Road and there is confusion as to house numbering. That the BOS consider slightly modifying the name of the Easterly section (being

considered as a Scenic Road) to "West Church Hill - East"

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11/14/2019 Workspace Webmail :: Print o If any further improvements or changes are to be made to West Church Hill - East that the 4 property owners be informed and consulted.

As Washington grows and evolves, ties to the past and "maintaining the rural character" have been identified in the POCD at least since 1993 as guiding elements that are important to the residents. This road though short, has an important place in Washington's history with such things as the first one room school house, stone walls, dirt roads, etc.. These "dirt" (gravel) roads are slowly vanishing or character being lost through improvements such as this due to the difficulty and cost in maintaining this type of road.

Ultimately it comes down to costs and convenience, in this case it will require the support of the Town Administration & taxpayers agreeing to pay the premium to preserve these roads if they are to remain. We hope you will help.

Elizabeth and her neighbors look forward to attaining the Scenic Road designation in December as well as discussion with Planning Com. and the new administration on how to preserve the scenic gravel roads and as importantly the design of the intersections with the primary roads

Thank you for your consideration of this issue,

Sincerely ,Peter Talbot AIA

Ms. Rea thanked the Selectmen and requested that the discussion continue.

- **Meeting Change: Motion:** To change the Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 27, 2019 to Tuesday, November 26 2019 at 5:30p.m. to accommodate the processing of bills and payroll with the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

Visitors:

- **Mary Anne Greene, Jim Brinton, Tom Osborne, Dave Werkhoven** and others present asked that the minutes reflect their gratitude to First Selectman Mark Lyon for his years of service to the Town noting his dedication and courage!

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:56p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dave Werkhoven, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant