

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
April 2, 2020

Meeting held via Video Conferencing

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

Present: First Selectman James L. Brinton, Selectmen Jay Hubelbank and Michelle Gorra.

Public: Don Sherr, Tony Bedini, Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Linda McGarr, Linda Gomez, Chris Charles, Rocky Tomlinson, Susan Branson, Margaret (?).

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

MOTION: To add subsequent business not already on the Agenda by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jay Hubelbank. Discussion: to approve the presenting of the proposed 2020-2021 budget to the Board of Finance by the Board of Selectmen. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 19, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Michelle Gorra and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

First Selectman's Report: Jim Brinton reported the following:

- **Passing of Mark Lyon:** The Town is deeply saddened by the passing of Mark E. Lyon. Mark served his community in many capacities – all with great dedication and more recently with an incredible show of courage. Thoughts are with his family.
- **Concerns relating to the number of New York residents in Town:** The Selectmen's Office has received several emails and/or phone calls with concerns due to the number of New York residents migrating to Town (especially renters) due to the Coronavirus. Jim has reached out to realtors who will ask clients to isolate for 14 days. Jim has also put a message on the website asking people who have come to town from high risk areas to isolate.
- **COVID-19:** The number of confirmed coronavirus cases remains the same today as it did on Monday – 10.
- **COVID-19 Relief Fund:** Several part-time and full-time residents have set up a fund to assist Washington residents and/or employees of Washington businesses who have become unemployed. There has been overwhelming support to donate to the Fund. Many have already utilized and benefitted from this generous outpouring. Funds are also available for Washington businesses through this Relief Fund or for those who meet the criteria, the Small Business Association. Assistance with the latter can be obtained through the National Iron Bank. The food and prescription delivery system is working well with more and more residents taking advantage of it. Anyone interested in participating or volunteering to help with this program may contact the Selectmen's office at 860-868-2259 or selectmen@washingtonct.org.

- **COVID-19 meetings:** The Board of Selectmen has been meeting with emergency personnel twice a week and providing updates on the Town's website.
- **Steep Rock Association:** The Selectmen and Steep Rock Association have been communicating on a regular basis as to how best address the increasing number of visitors to the three preserves. At the present time, they remain open.
- **Bridge Update:** Due to the coronavirus outbreak there may be delays in funding from the State which may delay the start of construction. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Presentation of Budget to Board of Finance: Motion:** To approve the presentation of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget to the Board of Finance by the Board of Selectmen for their approval. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Michelle Gorra. Discussion: In preparing the budget, the Selectmen have met with all the departments and/or Board and Commission chairs to discuss and prioritize needs, projects, etc. the proposed budget will be posted on the Town's website with details as to how the Town Budget Hearing and subsequent Town Meeting will be handled due to COVID-19. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution to modify Calendar for FY 2020-2021 Budgets: Motion:** To adopt the resolution pertaining to a modified calendar for the FY 2020-2021 General and Capital Fund Budgets authorized by Executive Orders 2020-7C and 7I. Be it further resolved pursuant to paragraph 13 of Executive Order 7I, the provisions of Charter Section 10-5 are hereby suspended for the deliberations pertaining to the adoption of the Town Budget for FY 2020-2021. Be it further resolved pursuant to paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7B, the legislative body of the Town of Washington shall comply with all requirements pertaining to notice including, but not limited to notice and posting on the website of the Town all submission items as least twenty-four hours prior to the public meeting for which the item has been submitted or shall be considered. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Michelle Gorra and unanimously approved.
- **Judy Black Park:** Although the building is closed to the public, the Park's Directors are looking into ways to utilize the park during these difficult times to bring some brightness and joy to the community through artwork, music, sharing of creative ideas, etc. More information can be found on the Town's website in in the Town's weekly updates.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:12p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jay Hubelbank, seconded by Michelle Gorra and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant