

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
April 30, 2020

Meeting held 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: Tony Bedini, Leslie Anderson, Dan Sherr, Susan Branson, Wayne Hileman, Linda Zukauskas, Chris Charles.

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

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Communications: None.

Appointments/Resignations: None.

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

- **New Preston Falls Site Visit:** Jim will be meeting with Inland Wetlands Chairman Bob Papsin and Conservation Commission member Susan Branson this evening to discuss the Town's role in future plans – beautification, safety, signage, etc.
- **Steep Rock Preserves:** In anticipation of this coming weekend's predicted good weather, an increased number of Highway Department personnel along with members of the police department will be stationed at Steep Rock, Hidden Valley and Macricostas to monitor numbers using the preserves in order to follow safe protocols during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- **COVID-19 Numbers** are own slightly state wide. Washington is still holding at 18 confirmed cases. Governor Lamont has recommended local governments begin to establish recovery teams and how re-opening will be handled. PPE supplies for first responders are good with more coming. Town Hall has ordered more masks that should be delivered next week and available for residents on the front steps of Town Hall. Please check the Town's website for their availability.
- **Tax Deferral Program** Adopted at last week's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, will accept applications until 6/15/20. Tax Collector, Donna Alex has posted more information on the Town's website. Information will also be shared in the Friday email blasts from the Selectmen's Office.
- **Memorial Day Celebrations:** Jim will be meeting with members of the Legion on Saturday to discuss Memorial Day plans that will most likely be held but on a scaled down basis.
- **2020-2021 Budget:** Due to Coronavirus, the annual Budget Hearing will be held virtually, Thursday, May 7, 2020 7:30p.m. at which time questions can be asked of the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. Residents also have the capability of submitting questions on the Town's website which will be answered at the meeting. The annual Town Budget Meeting will be held Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:30p.m. However, the public will not be voting to approve

or disprove the budget. **Motion:** The Board of Selectmen authorized the Board of Finance to vote on passing the 2020-201 Fiscal Year General Fund and Nonrecurring budget in accordance with an Executive Order by Governor Lamont. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Michelle Gorra and unanimously approved.

- **Condolences to the Hearn family on the passing of Tom** – a life-long resident of Town, Life member and past Chief of the Fire Department – beloved family man and friend!
- **Happy 104th Birthday Frances Whitehead!**
- **Happy 50th Birthday Michelle Gorra!**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Calhoun Street Bridge:** At the suggestion of Cardinal Engineers, the Calhoun Street Bridge project will be postponed. Additional easements need to be completed and a better timing for the bid process will be December 2020 with construction Spring 2021. In addition, there is no State funding for either of the bridge projects in Town (Calhoun Street and Rabbit Hill Road) this year.
- **Gift if Forward Program, Window Walk Treasure Hunt and Judy Black Park:** Michelle Gorra reported on several programs that are in the works or being planned to remind people to shop local. Information will be available on Washington Business Association website, Explore Washington and the Town's website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Community/Senior Center: SLAM Collaborative:** Jim Brinton reported that as a result of the public information meeting held in January, the information gathered and questions asked, the committee involved is recommending that SLAM Collaborative be hired to do the preliminary consulting work to determine if the Titus Road site is a feasible location and Milone and MacBroom be used to assist with the Land Use permit process. Discussion ensued regarding the use of both firms, whether an RFP should have been extended, the positive experiences other towns and organizations have had with both. **Motion:** To accept proposals from SLAM, \$14,600 and Milone and MacBroom, \$6,300.00 to do the preliminary studies for Community/Senior Center. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Michelle Gorra. Discussion: Funds have been budgeted for consultant fees to do preliminary studies to keep the project going. Findings will be presented to the public.

Visitors: None.

Adjournment:

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:21p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Jim Brinton, seconded by Jay Hubelbank and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
Selectmen's Assistant