



Washington Economic Development Committee Meeting  
 Tues, Dec 10, 2019

**Notes:**

> WiFi in the Depot – Update/Plan – Jay Hubelbank (as available)  
 No report available

> SustainableCT/Economic Initiatives – Update – Jay Hubelbank (as available)  
 No report available

> Young Families – Update/Next Steps – Michael Jackson, Julie King, Julia Nable  
 Julie King walked the WEDC thru the development and timing of the NOW Project Marketing Plan. See below.

## Washington NOW - Marketing Plan

TARGET:	BUYERS			SELLERS	REAL ESTATE AGENTS	
SEGMENT:	First Time Homebuyers	Move Up Buyers	Move Over Buyers	Empty Nester Home Owners	Washington CT Agents	Feeder Market Agents
COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVE:	Awareness of Washington's downpayment incentive program	Drive awareness and consideration of raising school aged children in Washington		Awareness of Washington NOW Home Preparation Program	Awareness of Washington NOW Certification Program	Awareness of First Time Homebuyer Program
MARKET HYPOTHESIS:	R12 Alumni R12 Renters	Danbury Watertown Torrington Waterbury	R12 AgSci Feeder Mkts Fairfield County Westchester County Dutchess County	R12 families of graduates Seniors	Agents focused on Washington, CT	Agents located within 25-mile radius
IN MARKET TIMING	JANUARY	MARCH/APRIL	MARCH/APRIL	FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY/ MARCH	FEBRUARY/ MARCH

> Adult Services – Update/Next Steps – Joan Lodsini, Tony Bedini

Tony Bedini reviewed the work to date on updating/replacing the Washington Senior Center. See below.

The story starts in 2012 with members visiting other centers in Roxbury, Bridgewater etc. It was plain to see that we needed more room. Resulted in no plans just discussions.

This subject was brought forth more recently the candidates and Dan and I started exploring the possibilities without purchasing any additional property. We considered three options.

First was to enlarge and reconfigure the current center. There are many problems with that idea. Structural, space, property limitations, ROW, parking, septic, Canoe Brook etc.

Second was the property on the left side of the Bee Brook Fire House. Conversations with Steep Rock resulted in their offer of additional property at no cost. Problems include the proximity to the Shepaug River and the State Route 47 ROW. If we followed Zoning and State regulations we would have a building 20 feet wide and 200 feet long.

The third option was Titus Park. 4.75 acres, adequate parking, walkable to center of the Depot with some sidewalks, ample parking. This would leave enough space to perhaps build a few small homes for seniors who may want to downsize and stay in Washington.

Option 3 still needs considerable work involving drawings, acquiring permits from Wetlands, Zoning, Health Dept., Building Dept., DEEP, and Army Corps of Engineers. We have survey and elevation maps. We have met several times with Reese Owens getting educated on the processes of building layouts, construction drawings, etc., etc.

Our goal is to occupy such a building in 2025. We are creating a time line.

We expect that funding would be  $\frac{3}{4}$  private and  $\frac{1}{4}$  town. We have spoken to a few likely donors and it looks promising.

Several questions arise.

Do the townspeople want a Senior, Social, or Community Center???

What services should it provide???

Where would be an acceptable location???

To this end we have planned to have a Community Conversation on January 14<sup>th</sup> to try and get the answers to some or all of those questions.

Joan Lodsin announced a Conversation with the Community on a New Senior Center, Tues, Jan 14, 2020, 4:00PM at Legion Hall. The First Selectman will email an announcement to the Town. See below.



**What's up in Washington?**  
**A Special Announcement from the First Selectman**

Hello to All:

I am reaching out to invite you to share input on how we will move forward with the future of our Senior/Community Center and the services provide to our seniors in Town. I have recently received the results from two different surveys sent out. The Washington Economic Development Committee and I would like to share and discuss these result with as many seniors as possible.

Our first goal is to form a Steering Committee to explore and move forward on the exciting initiatives that are being put forth. Now is the time to become involved, ask questions and get answers.

Please attend the next meeting of the Senior Center Advisory Board. The meeting will be held on January 14, 2020 at 4:00p.m. at the Senior Center in Washington Depot. Please RSVP to [joanlodsins@yahoo.com](mailto:joanlodsins@yahoo.com). Light refreshments will be provided.

Please consider attending this important meeting. It will give all of us an opportunity to take part in this exciting endeavor that will impact generations to come.

Thank you,  
Jim Brinton

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> Zoning – Overlays in the Villages - Wayne Hileman  
No new reporting.

> Co-working Space – Michelle Gorra, Dan Sherr

Dan Sherr reported the opening of the Warren Co-working Space in Warren Center. See below. The emerge of co-working spaces in the adjoining towns (New Milford, Litchfield, Morris) creates the opportunity for a co-working network. Dan indicated the Warren Works were likely to draw heavily from the Lake Waramaug weekenders. Howard Rosenfeld indicated that it was already fully booked.



Warren Works is your destination for working away from home. We have three workstations, two small offices, a lounge and a conference room for hourly, daily or monthly rent. With 5G WiFi, this calm alternative to cafe or home is the perfect spot for productivity! Scroll through the product offerings to reserve your space at the Crossroads of Litchfield County.

Day Passes: **\$20**  
Ten Day Passes: **\$175**  
Monthly Weekend Pass (Friday-Sunday): **\$150**  
Workstation: **\$250 Monthly**  
Front Office: **\$550 Monthly**  
Back Office: **\$450 Monthly**

Ask about longer terms

> Washington Community Development Director – Job Description – Michelle Gorra, Dan Sherr  
Dan Sherr circulated an updated version of the position description for the Washington Community Development Coordinator. See attached. He indicated that a funding request will be submitted as a line item for the 2020-2021 Town Budget.

Jim Brinton asked if the position could be shared with adjoining towns. It was suggested that Warren and Kent be approached. Discussion clearly indicated that anyone considering the position should know the Town of Washington well.



## WASHINGTON CT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR – **DRAFT #4**

### PURPOSE OF POSITION

The Washington CT Community Development Coordinator, coordinates the activities and implements programs that advance the community development and economic vitality of the Town. She/he is responsible for the development, conduct, execution and documentation of the annual Washington Community Development Plan. The Coordinator guides the supporting organizations based on objectives/ goals/ performance metrics of the annually approved action plan.

The Washington Community Development Director reports to the First Selectman.

### MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

[1] Develop the strategies that fully utilize the Town’s human, economic and natural resources to advance the Town’s economic and community vitality.

[2] Develop the annual action plan with a focus on organization, coordination, and communications.

[3] Recruit and engage persons and groups from the community to advance the annual Washington Economic and Community Development Plan.

[4] Administer the Washington Annual Economic Community Development Program, including annual plan/budget development, contracting with consultants, accounting and reporting. Prepare requests to funding organizations and agencies. Supervise and integrate the work of consultants.

[5] Build on-going working relationships with supportive regional and state organizations.

[6] Implement communications, including periodic updates, that keep the community fully engaged in Washington’s Economic Development and Community Programming.

### PRIOR EXPERIENCE

> Advancing social and/or economic programs in smaller New England communities (10K or less population).

> Facilitating “community conversations”.

> Working with smaller nonprofits - annual budgets of \$1MM or less.

> A hands-on work-style particularly implementing approved projects/programs.