

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
Bryan Memorial Town Hall
Post Office Box 383
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794
Zoning Commission Regular Meeting

MINUTES

June 26, 2023

7:30 P.M. – Hybrid Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Solley, J. Hill, V. Andersen

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Werkhoven, W. Farrell

ALTERNATES PRESENT: S. Smith

ALTERNATES ABSENT: S. Mongar, E. White

STAFF PRESENT: S. White, T. Rill, M. Haverstock

PUBLIC PRESENT: A. Jamieson, (Voices), D. Buell, R. Solomon, M. Solomon, C. Charles, D. Arturi, R. Boehning, M. Miner, M. Giampietro

Chair Solley called the meeting to Order at 7:33pm

He seated himself, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Andersen and Ms. Smith.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

There were no Public Hearings for this evenings meeting

REGULAR MEETING:

Consideration of the Minutes:

MOTION: To approve the May 22, 2023 Washington Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted, by Mrs. Hill, seconded by Chair Solley, approved 4-0 vote.

Pending Applications:

There are no pending applications

New Applications:

There are no new applications

Other Business:

A Special Meeting has been scheduled for 7:00pm on Wednesday, July 19th, 2023 to discuss 101 Wykeham, LLC – conditions compliance.

Enforcement:

Ms. Haverstock stated that pre-application meetings have been extremely successful. There have been several Zoning Permits for items such as generators, propane, fences, additions, patios and storage barns.

Mrs. Andersen questioned if the White Horse had started work on their Special Permit that was issued last month. There was no current update available. The Commission requested that the Land Use Office reach out to Mr. Harris, owner of the White Horse, for a status update.

Invoices and Communications:

Letter from D. Buell regarding Section 12.1.3 of the Washington Zoning Regulations:

Chair Solley stated that he would like for Commission members to review Mr. Buell's letter thoroughly and write down any questions, or concerns they may have.

Mrs. Hill stated that Mr. Buell's submission was a letter and not a petition, so there was no time frame in which they would need to address it. She suggested waiting until after the multi-family regulations are brought to the Commission – as she does not want to slow down that process at this time. The Commission agreed.

Privilege of the Floor:

Chair Solley read the following letter from the Washington Board of Selectmen:

“Recently, we’ve noticed some behavior at a few of our board and commission meetings that we feel is in contrast to the way the town has been conducted itself for many years. We, as the Board of Selectmen, felt it was important to address this conduct and to make it clear to everyone what we believe has made Washington a unique place to live.

The Town of Washington believes that residents have the right, and in fact, the responsibility to take part in how the town operates and make decisions. We have a long history of having one of the highest percentage of residents participating in local, state and federal elections, as well as volunteering to fill positions on our various boards and commissions. Not only do we volunteer for town government, we actively volunteer for our fire department, ambulance association, and many non-profit groups in town that seek to make Washington a better place.

Participating in these organizations is a privilege and an expectation for those living in Washington. It brings joy to those who serve, and it also brings responsibility. One important aspect of participating is remembering that working together is critical to any organization's success.

Whether you're a member of a commission or board, or participating as a member of the public, we expect everyone to act in a manner that respects all people no matter their beliefs. As a town we expect everyone to listen to others without interruption, speak when recognized and respect those who have agreed to take on a leadership role. Especially important is the respect the chair of a committee deserves. Running a meeting is no easy task. We cannot and should not accept behavior that belittles, bullies or threatens others. We believe it is vital to the continued success of our town to accept that our opinions will not always get what we want, but we must respect others who have taken the time to participate.

We feel strongly that the same courtesies and respect be extended to all staff and employees. Whether it's Public Works, Land Use, Clerks or elected officials, all of these individuals work tirelessly to serve the residents of our community.

Shepaug High School athletes have been long recognized by their peers as athletes who show the utmost sportsmanship in the Berkshire League. Our sons and daughters win and lose with dignity. Let's all try to live up to their example and treat each other with the same respect we expect people to treat us.

The vast majority of our residents have proven time and again that they meet and indeed exceed the high expectations we have for those of us living in Washington. Let's work together to maintain these high standards.

Respectfully,

James L. Brinton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant”.

Privilege of the Floor:

R. Solomon questioned if the letters written and submitted by M. Purnell had been sent to Cardinal Engineering for review, and if there had been any feedback.

Chair Solley stated that the letters would be sent to Counsel, and they would determine what fell under compliance issues and could be forwarded to Cardinal for review.

R. Solomon argued that at previous meetings, the commission agreed M. Purnell's letters should be forwarded for review and with the upcoming July special meeting, it would be useful to have their feedback prior to that meeting.

Mrs. Andersen questioned if whether Margaret Miner's letter would be sent to Cardinal as well.

Chair Solley reiterated that Attorney Zizka and Attorney Sherwood would review the letters and decide what would be considered compliance issues to be then forwarded to Cardinal.

M. Solomon stated that it had been consensus at the May zoning meeting that M. Purnell's letters would be sent to Cardinal for review and it has not been done. Mr. Solomon did not feel that counsel needed to be involved.

Administrative Business:

None.

Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the June 26, 2023 Washington Zoning Commission Meeting at 8:17pm, by Mrs. Andersen, seconded by Chair Solley, approved 4-0 vote.

Meeting recording can be found here:

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/trill_washingtonct_org/EfxGCVO_1a5DrxrQRN_yQJMBacjqe8UrgaV3vVQzFix3Vg?e=du9ARE

***Minutes filed, subject to approval**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

Land Use Clerk

June 27, 2023