

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
March 24, 2021  
APPROVED MINUTES

The Westport Board of Selectmen, Traffic Authority and Water Pollution Control Authority held a public meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9:00 AM. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 7B, there was no physical location for this meeting. It was held electronically, live streamed on [www.westportct.gov](http://www.westportct.gov), and broadcast on Westport's Optimum Government Access Channel 79 and Frontier Channel 6020.

<https://play.champds.com/westportct/event/51>

In attendance were Jim Marpe, Jennifer Tooker, Melissa Kane, Eileen Flug, Peter Ratkiewich, Bryan Thompson, Al D'Amura, Foti Koskinas, presenters as noted in the minutes, and Eileen Francis, recording secretary.

The Westport Board of Selectmen approved and unanimously adopted the following:

**RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AND AFFIRMING  
WESTPORT'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN-PACIFIC  
AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, Asian-Pacific American communities are suffering acts of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions, which have been exposed and heightened due to COVID-19; and  
WHEREAS, anti-Asian rhetoric and sentiment is stigmatizing, tends to incite fear and xenophobia, and numerous Asian-Pacific Americans are experiencing increased racial profiling, hate incidents, and, in some cases, hate violence; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to bring attention to baseless and xenophobic actions, hate speech, and bias, and most particularly, those against the Asian American and Pacific Island community, the Town of Westport must demonstrate its support for neighbors, families and friends who are adversely affected and traumatized by these acts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westport Board of Selectmen emphatically denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment. The Town of Westport joins municipalities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian-Pacific Americans and in combating hate crimes targeting Asian-Pacific Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Westport remains committed to condemning all manner of racism, stigmatization, hate speech, hate crimes, xenophobia, discrimination, and violence. Protecting residents, business owners, workforce members, and victims of hate through supportive programs and policies that embrace inclusivity, diversity, civil discourse, and acceptance for all, remains at the forefront of our intentions as a community to combat hate and racial injustices.

MINUTES

1. Jennifer Tooker presented Item #1. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of March 10, 2021 are hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE USE OF JESUP GREEN FOR WESTPORT GARDEN CLUB MAY 14, 2021

2. Eileen Francis, representing the Garden Club, and Garden Club Members Pat Nave and Kelle Ruden presented Item #2. The Garden Club members described the history of the plant sale, and that due to COVID, the previous locations were unavailable. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Use of Town Property known as Jesup Green for the Westport Garden Club Plant Sale on Friday, May 14, 2021 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, contingent upon compliance with recommendations from Town departments and in accordance with Procedures for Use of Town-owned Property, Facilities and/or Public Roadways is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE CLOSURE OF MAIN STREET FOR DMA FITNESS & HEALTH DAY MAY 1, 2021

3. Randy Herbertson and Jacqui Bidgood representing the Downtown Merchants Association presented Item #3. The presenters indicated that the set up and plan was similar to last year's event, and that all COVID-related protocols would be enforced, including distanced set up and only advanced sign up for the programs. The request from Fleet Feet to sponsor a 5k event at the same time was postponed to the next meeting to allow for additional information and review from the police and other departments. Upon motion by motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the closure of Main Street from its intersection at Post Road East to #90 Main Street on Saturday, May 1, 2021 (rain date: Sunday, May 2) from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm for the DMA's Fitness & Health Event, contingent upon compliance with recommendations from Town departments and in accordance with Procedures for Use of Town-owned Property, Facilities and/or Public Roadways is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE CLOSURE OF MAIN STREET + USE OF VARIOUS TOWN PROPERTIES FOR DMA FINE ARTS FESTIVAL MAY 28 – MAY 30, 2021

4. Randy Herbertson and Jacqui Bidgood representing the Downtown Merchants Association presented Item #4. The presenters described the set up of the event to adhere to COVID protocols and how the various programs and booths would be set up. The presenters noted that all safety standards would be enforced as well. Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the closure of downtown town roadways and the use of various town properties from Friday, May 28, 2021 @ 6:00 AM (set up) to Sunday, May 30, 2021 @ 10:00 PM (breakdown) for the DMA's Fine Arts Festival, contingent upon compliance with recommendations from Town departments and in accordance with Procedures for Use of Town-owned Property, Facilities and/or Public Roadways is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE CLOSURE OF MAIN STREET FOR OUTDOOR DINING + MUSIC FROM APRIL 15, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

5. Randy Herbertson and Jacqui Bidgood representing the Downtown Merchants Association presented Item #5 on behalf of the DMA and the restaurants that would be utilizing the space during the closure of Church Lane. This closure request is a collaborative effort between town officials, the DMA and local businesses. Discussion included the presentation for allowing music on private property abutting the town sidewalk. The P&Z Director's notes were referenced as to the allowable times for

music in that zone. Additionally, the police and public works departments stated that they would be involved with the enforcement and oversight of the detours and movable bollards. It was noted that 4 restaurants would be utilizing the town roadway for dining set up. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane, and passing by a vote of 3-0, the original request was modified to move the initial date of closure from April 30 to April 15. The final resolution reflects the change. Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the intermittent closure of the town roadway known as Church Lane from April 15, 2021 to September 30, 2021 to allow for outdoor dining, contingent upon compliance with recommendations from and administration of Town departments and in accordance with Procedures for Use of Town-owned Property, Facilities and/or Public Roadways is hereby APPROVED.

*ITEMS 6-9 ARE NOTED IN THE WPCA MINUTES OF 03-24-2021*

**REVISION 03-23-2021**

*The following may be heard and discussed on March 24, 2021 pending a 2/3 affirmative vote of Board members.*

Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, the Board approved the review of this item.

APPROVE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR BID 21-017T (JESUP GREEN SEAWALL REPAIRS)

10. Director of Public Works Peter Ratkiewich presented Item #10. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the award of contract for Bid #21-017T (Jesup Green Seawall Repairs) to low bidder A. Vitti Excavators in the amount of \$105,050.00 is hereby APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

*/Eileen Francis/*  
Eileen Francis, Recording Secretary