

**MINUTES
TOWN OF HARWICH
PLANNING BOARD
September 29, 2009**

A regularly scheduled and duly posted meeting of the Harwich Planning Board was held on September 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Harwich Town Hall, Griffin Room, 732 Main Street, Harwich, MA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following Members/Staff present:

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

Matt McCaffery, Chairman
Peter de Bakker, Clerk
Tom Stello
Joe McParland
Allan Atkinson
Ron Nordstrom

STAFF

David Spitz, Town Planner
Lindsay Stranger, Recording Secretary

BOARD BUSINESS

- Review of Committee/Department Responses to Date- Discuss Further Contacts
 - Mr. Spitz told the Board that he has received responses to the questionnaire from more than half of the departments and about half of the boards/committees. He stated that some of the departments/boards/committees warrant additional contact. Mr. McCaffery stated that some of the smaller groups should be reviewed by a subcommittee and the major departments such as schools, fire/police should be reviewed by the whole Planning Board. Mr. Atkinson stated that he wanted up to date information from some of the bigger groups. Mr. McCaffery said that the Board should meet as a subcommittee with Jim Merriam and Dave Ryan from Town administration and finance. Mr. McCaffery asked the Board who was available to meet with some of the groups as a subcommittee to get the reviews going. Mr. de Bakker, Mr. McCaffery, Mr. Nordstrom and Mr. Atkinson stated that they were available.
- Review Petitions Submitted by Brooke Williams
 - Mr. McCaffery read the petition from Brooke Williams regarding planning for the arts. Mr. McParland arrived at 6:44pm.
Mr. McCaffery read the Hawks Nest crossing petition and the petition for the Village Housing (including Main Street Extension) and Outlying areas housing study. Mr. Williams passed out documents to the Board. He said that there are many assets in the Town of Harwich that are underutilized. Mr. McCaffery asked what role the Planning Board has in these petitions. Mr. Williams stated that the Board should ask groups what events they have, and that they have the potential to work with more groups to expand the arts. Mr. McParland asked who the people were who signed the petitions. Mr. Williams stated that they are voters in the town. Mr. Williams had taken these petitions to the Board of Selectmen, who wanted him to forward the information to the Planning Board and the arts groups. Mr. McCaffery told Mr. Williams that if there are questions on arts, playgrounds, etc, then he needs to go to the appropriate group first. The Planning Board could help give direction/support, but that they are not the group to be handling these petitions. He let Mr. Williams know that there are several different groups in the town that handle different functions. Mr. Atkinson stated that the Planning Board role is to put the plan together to get things done, but that the Planning Board does not do the actual

work. There are other departments/committees that are charged with doing the actual work.

Motion was duly made by Joe McParland and seconded by Ron Nordstrom that the Board received three petitions and that the Planning Board should take them under consideration.

Mr. McCaffery stated that Mr. Williams should go before the CPA with a lot of the petition items. Mr. de Bakker is concerned that the petitions don't represent the entire population of the town.

So voted with a vote of 5-0.

- Jim Stinson came before the Board representing John Pina. The case came before the Board in 2005 for a vote and now needs the Board to sign the plan and covenant per the decision.. Mr. Spitz told the Board that they did not receive this information until this afternoon, and that he will check with Attorney Quirk as to the legal process and status.
- Mr. McCaffery read the letter dated 9/24/09 from Jerry Loftus regarding the vision statement. Mr. McCaffery stated that he was asked last night by the Board of Selectmen about the vision statement and that he has a record of comments/changes and will vote on them one by them.

DISCUSSION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES

- **Bikeways:** Mr. Spitz stated that the Planning Board's goal for the 2010 LCP is to pull together other department plans and have an achievable path towards the future. He shared with the Board efforts that started but never got anywhere: priority sidewalk, safe routes to school effort, memo from Lincoln Hooper re: traffic mitigation funds dated July 23, 2007, Ms. Hude started objectives, strategy, measures before she left, and a memo from the Traffic Safety Committee dated 8/8/07. Mr. McCaffery stated that the folks who deal with the sidewalks, etc. should prioritize their projects. Bruce Nightingale stated that there is \$100,000 in the capital plan to use for sidewalks. Lincoln Hooper said that over 2 years ago the Board of Selectmen asked for his recommendations for sidewalks. His suggestion is that they should be a planning function that is not under his jurisdiction. Mr. Hooper stated that his priority is the roads, and that sidewalks are expensive to build. He stated that the sidewalk from Route 39 to the 400 East without drainage cost \$50,000. Mr. McCaffery stated that there is \$100,000 in capital funds and about \$17,000 in sidewalk funds available. Mr. Hooper stated that the survey work for Long Pond Drive was approved by the Board of Selectmen last night in the amount of \$50,000. He explained the process of building the multi-modal lane on Long Pond Drive with the survey, engineering etc. Mr. McCaffery asked Mr. Spitz to follow up with the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen in regards to working with Brewster on the roads and bike paths. Mr. Nightingale stated that there needs to be a joint decision between the traffic safety committee, Planning Board, Highway etc, to decide which sidewalk should be built first. Mr. McCaffery stated that they need to find out the process for building a sidewalk. Mr. Spitz suggested that the planning component should come through the Planning Board with input from several other committees and then they could seek similar funding sources. He stated that it has been difficult because some of the other committees do not have direct staff to follow up on the projects. Mr. McCaffery stated that they should prioritize by safety concerns/issues and make a list. Eileen Purdy, interim Chair of the Harwich Center Initiative, stated that their priority is safe routes to school, and how does she take her concerns to the next stage. Mr. Williams stated that volume of traffic, accidents, school proximity etc. should be considered when prioritizing. Mr. McCaffery stated that the bikeways, trails and traffic safety committee should give a priority list of projects to the town. Mr. Thomas stated that they have lists for funding, but that they have no expertise to go for funding. He gave two funding lists to Mr. Spitz today: one for bikeways and one for trails. Paul Ericson is concerned about the process and scope of what is trying to be accomplished. He stated that the traffic safety committee is an advisory committee to the Board of

Selectmen. He agreed with the process of bringing projects to the Planning Board, and then to the Board of Selectmen for endorsement. Mr. Spitz stated that they need to know the cost, how many people would use it, does it connect to major areas, user groups being served, safety etc. Mr. de Bakker asked Mr. Hooper why the sidewalks are more expensive than resurfacing a road. Mr. Hooper stated that there is a lot more hand work than machine work. Mr. Thomas stated that the bikeways committee will propose multi-modal lanes on connector roads.

Mr. McParland left the meeting at 8:35 pm

Mr. Rosenberg wanted to know how the LCP views off road trails, and what is the legal status of people blocking off road trails (Robbins Pond trail). Mr. Thomas stated that it is an action item on the trails committee and will be looking at the legal implication of removing blockage. Mr. McCaffery stated that if structures are on town owned land, then it is a violation of zoning which is under the jurisdiction of the building commissioner and should be referred to him for enforcement. Mr. Hooper stated that a list should be circulated to staff so that they can comment. Mr. Thomas recommends consolidating sections.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Spitz stated that the Board of Selectmen wants him to make a presentation on October 13th on the Open Space Plan, which is on the same day as the next Planning Board meeting. He also mentioned that at the October 19th Board of Selectmen meeting, the Cape Cod Commission will be making a presentation on the Regional Policy Plan. Mr. McCaffery stated that everyone should attend the meeting on October 19th, and that the next Planning Board meeting will be 10/14/09.
- **Motion was duly made by Peter de Bakker and seconded by Ron Nordstrom to revote the invoice for Lindsay Stranger for \$94.22 that was voted at the last meeting due to an increase in pay. So voted unanimously.**

Motion to adjourn made by Peter de Bakker and seconded by Ron Nordstrom. So voted unanimously at 8:55 p.m.

Matthew F. McCaffery, Chairman

Date

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Banta
Head Clerk