

Harwich Ad Hoc Noise Containment Committee Meeting Minutes October 29, 2019

Members present: Angel McNamara, Bob Cohn, Cyndi Williams, Frances Rich, Walter Mason, Heather Skowronek.

Others present: Police Chief David Guillemette.

The room was full; no seats were available.

Angela called meeting to order at 5:00 pm and gave audio video warning.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Minutes of the 10/8/19 meeting were approved
- b. Questionnaire/Survey to be put at the Harwich Chamber was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Determine Secretary for next meeting—Fran will be secretary for this meeting and Heather secretary for next meeting
- b. Discuss any correspondence received from business/community members:
Cyndi reported that she had a good conversation with Judd Bracket from Ember & Port (w/brother Griff). They would like to resolve noise issues. The results of the first round of violations for Ember have been announced - Sunday music in August 2020 will be acoustic only.
- c. Discuss possible trip to Harwich Port to measure 150':
Angela, Walter, & Heather will take measurements and report back to committee.
- d. Discuss parameters of trip if agreed to. None given.
- e. Issues list, as determined by resident's letters, concerns and/or suggestions:
Discussion followed on what issues on the list relate to the charge of this committee.
Cyndi said that we only get 1 shot at reporting to BOS. Fran stated that charge asks for periodic status reports. Angela will ask Mike MacAskil if BOS wants them.

Discussion about plainly audible definition:

Chief Guillemette suggested that we hire an attorney to help us with plainly audible definition.

Angela will contact Mike MacAskill about using lawyer. Put on agenda for next meeting.

Heather talked about acoustic music and crowd noises.

Cyndi talked about having quiet nights Sun thru Tues -Harwich Unplugged.

1. Public Comment:

Mary Albis of West Harwich told meeting about noise issues dating back a few decades and BOS solutions. Not all have been satisfactory to residents in the area.

- Marna Bate who lives at Melrose told the committee that Port & Ember are all ears; they want to be good neighbors. Ember is getting blindsided; she asked residents to call restaurant directly with noise complaints instead of the police.
- Ginny Doyle (West Harwich): said she remembers Irish pub noise. Selectmen told them to go inside. She stated that outside music is a new thing; says it should stay inside
- Peg & Mr. Trowbridge: suggested that all businesses go acoustic only and like the idea of Harwich unplugged
- George & Bill Rockwood; Bill is an acoustic engineer and he offered to help the committee.
- Barbara Nickerson mentioned that the charge of the committee is for all of Harwich, not just Harwich Port.
- Bob Piantedosi questioned entertainment in commercial district. He asked - where do we want to be in 5 years, 10 years.
The same 8 weeks that people come here to get away from other lives is the same 8 weeks of outside noise. We all want businesses to be successful; but residents want success as well.

2. Next Meeting Date

Nov. 12: 5:30 – 6:30

3. Future Agenda

4. Adjourn