Harwich Planning Board

Town Hall, 732 Main Street, Harwich, MA – Griffin Room

**Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 6:30 PM**

This meeting of the Planning Board was held in-person and was also available for viewing via the GoToMeeting format and on the Harwich Channel.

Members Present: Duncan Berry, Ann Clark Tucker, Harry Munns and Allan Peterson.

Christine Flynn, the Town Planner was also present.

Mr. Berry called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and read the following notice.

1. **Recording Notice; Call to Order**

*According to MA Law anyone who intends to record the meeting must first notify the Chair who will then inform the other attendees at the start of the meeting.*

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Berry invited all to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Public Hearings**

There were no cases to be heard.

1. **Public Meeting**

**Planning Board Business**

New Business:

Approval of Draft Minutes: 1/9/24 and 1/23/24

Mr. Peterson moved to accept as submitted the Minutes of both January 9, 2024 and January 23, 2024. Mr. Munns seconded the motion and the Board voted in approval. 4-0-0.

The Members then each signed the “Full Release of Covenant” document for South Westgate Road, Case # PB2007-36.

Ms. Flynn gave details about the upcoming Citizen Training Planning Collaborative Annual Conference scheduled to be held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester on 3/16/24. She noted that there will be 3 modules of 18 different sessions including a variety of interesting topics. She also had included in the member packets the Power Point presentation that had been offered by Town Counsel, Amy Kwessel earlier in February.

Moving on to updates regarding the Local Comprehensive Plan, Ms. Flynn told the Board that there is a flier with information about community engagement sessions scheduled from 10-noon at the Cultural Center (the “204 Building”) on 3/23/24 and also at the Community Center from 1-3PM on 4/6/24 looking for public input. There are currently 4 major areas of focus: The Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP), The Housing Production Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Plan and the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Berry then read a letter sent to the Board from Matt Sutphin regarding the upcoming Mass. DOT Project to extend sidewalks from Harwich Port to Saquatucket Harbor. Mr. Sutphen is concerned that the placement of telephone and electric poles will negatively affect a tree planted by his grandfather. He also stated that he believes the project is unnecessary and/or could be moved to the north side of Route 28.

Ms. Clark Tucker said that the project has been in the planning stage for the last 10 years and is under the control of the state, not the Town. Mr. Berry added that the state is also involved in a project to update sidewalks in West Harwich, as well.

The Board discussed a potential need to move back toward the type of hybrid meetings that were held during the pandemic in order to better deal with the smaller size of the current Planning Board. When one or two members cannot attend, it negatively affects the applicants with delays caused by continuances. Ms. Flynn said that she would draft a letter to the Select Board with that request.

Mr. Munns spoke about a certified letter that he had received regarding the appeal of a recent Planning Board decision. Ms. Flynn said that all further action on that case will be dealt with exclusively by Town Counsel.

**Adjourn**

At 6:51 PM, Mr. Peterson moved to adjourn with a second by Ms. Clark Tucker. The Board voted in favor. 4-0-0