

Harwich Center Initiative Committee
Monday Feb. 28, 2019 at 5:30 pm
Small Hearing Room, Harwich Town Hall
732 Main St. Harwich MA 02645

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Approval of minutes of Dec. 10, 2018 meeting
 - B. Approval of minutes of Jan. 17, 2019 meeting
4. Correspondence:
 - A. Jan. 29, 2019 Email Rec'd from Anna Murphy with follow-up comments from the Jan. 17th Public Listening Session.
5. New Business:
 - A. Discussion of Input Received at Jan. 17th Public Listening Session
 - B. Review/Update of Current Initiatives Related to Harwich Center
 - C. Next Steps
6. Adjournment

Authorized posting officer

Virginia A. Hewitt, Committee Clerk

Harwich Center Initiative Committee

Posted by

Town Clerk's Office

Agenda submitted electronically to Town for posting by Committee Clerk Virginia Hewitt on Feb. 12, 2019.

** Per the Attorney General's Office: Boards/Commissions may hold an open session for topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting following "New Business"*

If you are deaf or hard of hearing or are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation, contact the Town Administrator's Office at 508-430-7513.

Harwich Center Initiative Committee
Town of Harwich
732 Main St., Harwich MA 02645

MINUTES
Dec. 10, 2018 Meeting

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

Interim Chair Paul Doane called the meeting to order at 5 pm. Committee members Ginny Hewitt, Lincoln Hooper, Lane Meehan and Dan Wolf were present. Members of the public attending included Cyndi Williams, Gregory Winston, Larry Ballantine, Craig Chadwick, Arthur Bodin, Steven Tupper, Shirley Gomes, Richard Gomes, John Eldredge, Sr., Peggy Rose, Harold Gabriel, David Tobey, Paul Lagg, Matt Hart and Paul Anastasio.

2. Public Comment

Matt Hart, Chair of the Harwich Accessibility Rights Committee, provided information on a Community Development Block Grant he has applied for on behalf of the Town that includes improving the accessibility of sidewalks in Harwich Center from the Community Center to the Cultural Center.

3. Introduction of New Members

Mr. Doane stated that the Board of Selectmen has appointed 5 formal members of the committee to date. He noted there are several vacancies and he has requested the Selectmen to appoint several alternate members. Anyone interested should apply by filling out an application available online or from the Town Administrator's office. The Selectmen will be conducting interviews over the next few weeks. Mr. Doane also indicated there are a number of interested community members who have indicated they'd like to participate in the effort without being part of the formal committee. He urged all attendees to reach out to other stakeholders in Harwich Center to ask for their input and participation and to inform them of future meetings.

Mr. Doane then asked committee members and attendees to introduce themselves and briefly state their affiliation with related boards/committees/business/organization and/or their interests or concerns regarding Harwich Center. Attendees took turns introducing themselves. Mr. Doane then reviewed several pieces of property in the downtown core of Harwich Center that may be "in play" that could serve as a catalyst for improvements that would make Harwich Center a vibrant area again.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Nov. 27, 2018 (motion: D. Wolf, second: L. Meehan) Unanimously approved.

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Motion to nominate Dan Wolf as Chair (motion: P. Doane; second: L. Hooper). Unanimously approved.

Mr. Doane turned the meeting over to Mr. Wolf.

Motion to nominate Paul Doane as Vice Chair (motion: V.Hewitt, second: L. Hooper). Unanimously approved.

Mr. Wolf then turned the meeting back over to Mr. Doane to run for the remainder of the meeting.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of Committee Priorities

Mr. Wolf expressed concern that the vision hasn't been adequately articulated and he isn't sure that committee members and stakeholders share the same vision. Without that consensus he is concerned revitalization efforts will not be successful. Mr. Ballantine stated that many of the current participants have been involved in previous efforts and he didn't think it was necessary to spend months working on a vision. He indicated the Selectmen are looking for the Committee to come up with 2 to 3 priorities so that things can start to happen. That's why the Committee was established as an ad hoc committee, ending in December 2019. A consensus is needed but they'd like to pick a couple things to get going. Mr. Wolf agreed we do not need to spend a lot of time on philosophy and concept. There are a number of properties that need help. He discussed the role of private sector money in fostering that, where the public sector can help with zoning and regulatory changes. There are a relatively small number of properties that need to see some movement and there needs to be a partner for that. Mr. Doane agreed but stated there is also a strong view from many participants that more input is needed from stakeholders on priorities, needs and concerns. Multiple participants then discussed the mechanism and procedures for this to occur.

It was noted that some but not all of the prior studies on Harwich Center are on the Town website and now that the contractor has finished modifications to the Town website and boards and committees can resume adding content those studies would be posted on the Harwich Center Initiative Committee page so they'd be available in one location. In the meantime they are available in a folder on Google Drive and a link will be send again to committee members, meeting attendees and other parties who have expressed interest. The Chair and Vice Chair asked participants to read through the documents so that everyone is familiar with the work that has already been done and the recommendations that were made.

A general discussion was then held with various committee members and attendees commenting on specific recommendations and the desirability and/or feasibility of implementing them without adversely impacting current residents and businesses. The need for additional parking, potential locations for additional parking, the need for traffic calming measures and improved pedestrian safety, the need for additional businesses and suggestions for appropriate kinds of businesses, the need to develop a connection to the heavily utilized Old Colony Rail Trail which runs one block north of Main St, and to connect the bike trails and

sidewalks in Harwich Center to Harwich Port, the impact of the Center being in a Historic District on businesses and homeowners, the need for input and involvement of the Historic District Historical Commission, the need to review and change zoning and other regulations to provide opportunities for economic development that is appropriate for the area and the need to obtain input and feedback from stakeholders in Harwich Center and the need to obtain the support of Town officials for any actions recommended by the Committee were subjects that were discussed.

B. Planning for Proposed Stakeholder Meetings

A meeting to solicit stakeholder input was tentatively scheduled for Jan. 16th at 5:30, depending on availability of the Griffin Room. Attendees were asked to review prior Harwich Center Initiative reports and other related studies and to come prepared with what they see as the top three priorities that need to be addressed.

7. Motion to adjourn: (motion: D. Wolf, second: L. Hooper). Unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hewitt
Committee Clerk

Harwich Center Initiative Committee
Town of Harwich
Griffin Room, Town Hall
732 Main St., Harwich MA 02645

Jan. 17, 2019 Meeting
Minutes of Public Listening Session

DRAFT

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Chairman Dan Wolf called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Committee members Ginny Hewitt, Lincoln Hooper and Greg Winston were present. Committee member Paul Doane attended remotely by telephone. Town Planner Charleen Greenhalgh was also present. Members of the public attending included those listed on the attached sign-in sheets.

Mr. Wolf introduced himself and explained the process that would be followed for this listening session. He encouraged attendees to share their thoughts and concerns about the current state and future vision for Harwich Center. Members of the committee and the Town Planner then introduced themselves.

2. The Town Planner presented a power point reviewing the charge of the Harwich Center Initiative Committee and recommendations from previous studies related to Harwich Center. It was noted that the previous studies on Harwich Center are available on the Harwich Center Initiative Committee page on the Town website and that print copies are available at Brooks Free Library and from the Town Planner at Town Hall, and that this power point would also be posted to the Committee webpage.

3. Listening Session

The Chair then opened the Listening Session, inviting attendees to address the Committee to share their thoughts, concerns, ideas and vision for the future of Harwich Center. The Town Planner made note of speakers' points on a flipchart (typed notes from flipcharts attached). 18 community members then addressed the Committee raising concerns about the condition of sidewalks in the core of the village as well as the need to extend sidewalks outward from the Center, the need for additional parking and the pros and cons of various options on how to create more parking using Brett Road and/or the areas behind the commercial buildings on Main St and Parallel St., potential changes to reduce bottlenecks at major intersections, the speed and volume of traffic on Main St, Parallel and Oak streets and the need for traffic calming measures, the need for stop signs, stop lights or other traffic control devices to reduce lines of vehicles waiting to turn from side streets and major intersections, economic development depends on fixing problems with traffic volume/speed/pedestrian safety, support for the proposed Harwich Center Cultural District designation, the importance of maintaining the historic character of the village and for economic development to occur in ways that are consistent with that, the effect of the village center being in a historic district on reducing investors' interest in locating there, the importance of involving

stakeholders in revitalization efforts, the need for the Historic District Historic Commission to be involved in the revitalization effort, the use of Harwich Center businesses by people using the Old Colony Rail Trail, the need to do a better job of attracting Rail Trail users and for additional bike racks in the Center, the volume of traffic presents a challenge but is also provides an opportunity for economic development, the need to attract investors who will revitalize the village by developing or re-developing properties in appropriate ways, the desire of residents on side streets in the village to maintain the residential character of their neighborhoods, and the need for public/private partnerships for revitalization efforts.

4. When everyone who wished to speak had addressed the Committee the Chair thanked attendees for their participation and stated the Committee would hold a future meeting to consider their input and determine next steps. The meeting will be a public meeting so the agenda will be posted in advance on the Town website.

Motion to adjourn (motion: L. Hooper, second: G. Winston). The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hewitt
Clerk

Ideas – Vision – Concerns
Harwich Center Initiative Meeting
January 17, 2019

(typed notes of flipchart notations from the Listening Session)

- Access and safety
- Walkability and bicycling Connectivity: not only in the center, but access from outer reaches - Pleasant Lake Ave, Oak Street, Bank Street, etc.
- Parking connection from behind Reds Restaurant to Old Post Office
- Traffic and Traffic Patterns: Oak Street & Main Street; Sisson Road and Main Street; Pleasant Lake Ave and Main Street; Bank Street and Main Street
- Cultural District
- Appropriate sidewalks and signage
- Bike racks (some exist behind Exchange Parking)
- Economic Development that fits with the historic and cultural nature of the center
- Destination: people need a reason to come here
- Need to figure out what the Town wants to do
- Commercial and industrial traffic – concern with speed, etc.
- Profit motive – tax incentives
- Historic needs to participate
- Sense of neighborhoods – kids; gateways from schools
- Speed – need to slow traffic down; pace of traffic
- Parallel Street – how or if to use this
- Service businesses a direction to go
- Parking – reduce parking on north side of street
- Sidewalks
- Multifamily developments
- Look at right-of-way from Main Street to Parallel Street
- A place to meet: coffee shop, bakery, ice cream
- Crosswalk locations
- Collaboration
- Public-private partnerships – shared parking, septic, etc.

Harwich Center Initiative Stakeholders Meeting

January 17, 2019

Please print clearly and neatly

Name

Email

Cyndi Williams - Harwich Chamber

cyndi@harwichchamber.com

Tom Evans

thomas.evans@comcast.net

Art Bodin Harwich Housing

hartfordrep@msn.com

Julee Kimball

glkling@hotmail.com

Larry Ballentine

larryballentine@yahoo.com

Debera First

deberafirst@gmail.com

Susan Lellis

stellis97@yahoo.com

Rosanne Shapiro

sunaseacreation@comcast.net

Tram O'Brian

WATCHEFEAST@GMAIL.COM

Carl Schirra

bluefishbomb@comcast.net

Bob Ruddock

RUDDOCKROBERT33@gmail.com

Nicole Muller

nicoleoncapecod@gmail.com

TAT STACKHOUSE

Trish Conn@comcast.net

Fred Boak

fred@fredboak.com

Rebecca Fernandes

greysea.787577@mac.com

Michael Lilder

majestic1403@hotmail.com

Harwich Center Initiative Stakeholders Meeting

January 17, 2019

Please print clearly and neatly

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Pefer Antivellis	peferantivellis.lcsw.lawyer@gmail.com
John Ormento	502645@yahoo.com
JIM TREESE	INFO@CAPECODAQUATICS.COM
Paul Anastasio	drpaul@harwichhealthcenter.org.com
Bill Galvin Billy ^B	CapeCodCharitable.com
MARK FARBEN	mdfarben227@gmail.com
CRAIG CHADWICK	CRAWICK@COMCAST.NET
Cynthia Sulphin	Felard Road "
Malheur Sulphin	Island pond trail
Mike Gradone	gradonemike@gmail.com
Joanne Harrington	annajohann@comcast.net
Emily Milan	emilan@clamsnet.org
Mary A. Maslowski - Chair HDHC	mary.maslowski@harwich.ma.us
Peter Geraghty	GERAGHTYASA@AOL.COM
Richard Waystead	
Kathleen ^{weiner} Krein	Kathleen810@comcast.net
Shirley Gomes	ricky.gomes@comcast.net
Anna B. Murphy	anna.k.beaton@yahoo.com
Tracey Fraser	t.fraser14@yahoo.com
Peter C. Robbins	
Martha E. Curran	Curran47@aol.com
John A. Eldredge Sr	



Virginia Hewitt <vhewitt@clamsnet.org>

Harwich Center Initiative

Murphy, Anna <amurphy@ifaw.org>
To: "vhewitt@clamsnet.org" <vhewitt@clamsnet.org>

Tue, Jan 29, 2019 at 5:28 PM

Dear Ms. Hewitt and committee,

Thank you for participating in the Harwich Center Initiative. I attended the meeting on January 17, 2019 and found it to be very interesting. I did not speak at the meeting but would just like to share a few ideas and I apologize for emailing you at this address, I was uncertain how to submit my comments.

I agree with the sentiment expressed by many about speed. I believe the initiative has and will continue to consult with experts in this field as I am not an expert. I would like to mention the benefits of a less wide road. Speed was repeatedly mentioned at the meeting, and at the same time so was removing on street parking. While I believe additional off street parking is a great idea, I personally think curbside parking has benefits. It might even be good to determine feasibility of curb parking as a solution for traffic calming near Brooks Park.

My experience in walking through Harwich Center for the 11 years I have lived on South Street is that speed is less of an issue on the western end of the center and it increases as you go towards Brooks Park. I believe that the stop signs near the church coupled with the on street parking on that end forces vehicles to slow down. Whether the measurements of street, sidewalk and curb parking are optimal I cannot say but I believe the street parking helps with speed. To highlight a contrast- While East Harwich has its merits I would be less likely to walk on the sidewalk near routes 39/137 as the wide road only increases the speed. Despite E Harwich having more modern sidewalks and traffic lights that location really does indicate that pedestrians are not welcome.

I would also mention newer developments of shopping like Mashpee commons where developers intentionally have created narrower roads and sidewalks as people enjoy walking in that type of environment. Harwich Center is different from a developed town center, really it is the original which has been copied. In terms of concern about construction vehicles that need to navigate the road, if the measurements are possible to support sidewalk, curb parking and road I believe the professional drivers are not the cause of the speed issue.

Perhaps you have already seen this short clip and some does not apply to Harwich but I have found it interesting and some ideas in this letter were prompted by this clip.

https://www.ted.com/talks/jeff_speck_4_ways_to_make_a_city_more_walkable?language=en

Thank you again for your time and talent in serving on this committee. Your work is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Anna Murphy

283 South Street

Harwich, MA 02645

The content of this email is intended only for the use of the above-named addressee and may contain information that is confidential, proprietary, and/or legally privileged. Please notify the sender if you received this email in error.