Local Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

Harwich MA Town Hall 02645

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Chair Joyce McIntyre

Jim Knickman was virtual so a roll call vote will be taken as necessary. Guests included Christine Flynn and Sharon Rooney. Peter Gori was absent.

2. New Business

a. Review and Approve meeting minutes—12/5/2023

minutes of meeting 12/5/23 were approved with a motion by Ed McManus and a second by Bernadette Waystack. Roll call was taken verbally with a “yes” vote by everyone.

b. Survey link and post card data on LPC website

A discussion followed of the data from the post card on the LPC website. The post card is now finished since the comprehensive survey is out.

c. Review of in-depth survey so far.

Showing strong themes, 600+ responses, 53% of respondents are >65 years old. Still

need younger respondents, <55 years old. What % do we consider successful? Need to get younger people to respond to survey. Maybe do some outreach at community center.

d. Discussion on housing production plan, open space plan.

Sharon—housing production plan will be here in February. Have 2-3 weeks for our review. Open space committee—need a survey but concerned about survey fatigue. Ad hoc open space committee (Margo, Mike Lach and several Harwich department heads) have lots of data to go through. Open space survey won’t go out until after LPC survey closes. Discussion on whether we close our survey before the visioning workshops. Visioning workshops set for late March early April timeframe.

Discussion on the Gantt chart Brian put together and how can we use it to show people what we have done, what we will be doing and what is the end game. Would it be helpful to put on our website. Make it warm and fuzzy for everyone to understand. Sharon will review and comment before it goes on the website.

Margo asked about timing of our plan. From LPC goes to planning board to public hearing to select board to put on warrant for town vote.

e. Draft vision statement

Discussion on draft vision statement that Sharon brought. Want statement to be shorter not as verbose. Everyone likes second paragraph, keep the date out of it. Take out social diversity; include resilient households, cultural identification. General impressions—town to take more active line with WWTP, housing, economic resilience, schools. After discussion, verbal vote to adopt revise vision statement—verbal roll call.

f. Dates and format for visioning meetings

Close survey around March 15th. Have two all attendee meetings—end of March/ early April. Joyce will work on that and report back in February. Jim will hold a gathering of seniors at the senior center with iPads, etc. to help them complete their survey. This can also count as outreach for the plan. A total of 4 meetings will take place—-2 all attendees, 1 meeting for the seniors and one meeting in the summer for seasonal residents. The February agenda will include the housing production plan, dates for workshops and updated Gantt chart.

Follow on discussion: can webpage include a logo, Gantt chart? Mary suggested we include the above for “affirming” our charge, let people know about us, make us more visible. Committee agreed to let Mary move ahead with the suggestion with a verbal yes by roll call.

3. Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm with a motion by Margo and a second by Brian. A yes vote was taken with a roll call.