

PLANNING BOARD MEETING OF June 28, 2011

Place: Town Hall Banquet Room

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

Chairman Wayne Hayward – Opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

A. Quorum/Attendance

Members Present: Chairman Wayne Hayward, Albert Borges, Gary Staffon, Rene Fleurent, Jaime DeSousa, Peter Nopper and Planning Director, William Roth.

Members Absent: Albert Silva and Joseph Morra

B. Acceptance of Minutes

Motion was made by Gary Staffon and seconded by Jaime DeSousa to approve the Minutes from May 10, 2011. Unanimous vote of the Planning Board.

Planning Board Bills: None

**II. CURRENT PLANNING:**

A. Receipt of Plans: None

B. Approval of Plans: None

**III. LONG RANGE PLANNING**

1) River Walk Project Presentation, Nancy Durfee, SPREDD Planner

Nancy Durfee – Introduced herself, handed out a map of the River Walk Project and reviewed the history of the project. It is a joint project between New Bedford, Acushnet and Fairhaven to provide a pathway along the shore of the upper harbor.

John Medeiros (Effected Fairhaven Property Owner) – Owns the river front property at the end of Veranda Avenue and behind Nye Lubricants. He was interested in the project and felt that his Veranda property could provide a vista view point to the Water. He also felt that the property behind Nye could also provide a similar vista view point, but there are security concerns of a path running behind Nye and Dattco. He also expressed interest that his Veranda property one day be owned by the Town for passive recreation.

Chairman, Wayne Hayward – asked if the path would be for biking or walking and what type of surface was proposed.

Nancy Durfee –The path would be for both. The surface had not yet been decided and it is possible that multiple services would be used depending on the specific site conditions. However, the possible federal, state and local funding sources would have requirements such as American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Chairman, Wayne Hayward – Asked how long was the path?

Nancy Durfee – A total of 6 miles with 3 miles in New Bedford and 1.5 miles in Acushnet and Fairhaven respectively.

Chairman, Wayne Hayward – Asked how long is the existing Fairhaven Bike Path?

William Roth – The main bike path is approximately 3 and the little Bay loop is 1 mile.

Jaime DeSousa – Would dogs be allowed?

Nancy Durfee – Yes

Rene Fleurent – Felt that this was a Fantastic idea.

Jaime DeSousa – asked about the timing of the project?

Nancy Durfee – Indicated that grants had been applied for. New Bedford Harbor Trustees had awarded \$2.9 million, but there was no definite time table because we are still in the planning stages.

William Roth – This is a long term project that will most likely take a decade or more to fully complete.

Albert Borges – Has any consideration for parking areas been planned?

Nancy Durfee – That has not been brought up but we will look into it.

Peter Nopper – Parking should be considered where there is boat (kayaks and canoes) access to the water.

Chairman, Wayne Hayward – Asked what the process was for each community to move this forward and if there was a web site with information that would be helpful in making the public award and getting their support.

Nancy Durfee – The 3 communities should jointly move the project forward with applying for grants and funds. Having the communities' together as one group helps in funding decisions and grant applications. The web site idea is great and we can implement that on SRPEDD's web site.

Gary Staffon – What is the EPA's time table on the cleanup?

Nancy Durfee – Based on current funding levels the cleanup is estimated to take 40 years.

The Planning Board was in agreement that this was a good project and that they would support it in any way they could.

## 2. Discuss – Chapter 316 – Planning Board Procedures

William Roth – Reviewed the 6-15-11 draft document that was mailed to the Planning Board.

Chairman, Wayne Hayward – Discussed the Subdivision Security release section 316-4.A (9 & 10).

Rene Fleurent – Asked a question about the fees reference and if fees were changed in the future would the references have to be changed.

William Roth – No, the reference would not have to be changed. If fees are change the Board would be amending Chapter 306.

William Roth – I want to point out that under notice requirements that certified mail is recommended and not required. This is not the practice of the Board. We always send out the abutter notices certified. I believe that certified mailing is not a state requirement.

Chairman, Wayne Hayward – I believe state law does not require it.

William Roth – I agree, but will confirm the state requirements and bring this back to the Board.

William Roth – With regards to Street Acceptances. I put a question mark beside that section because how it is written is not how it is being done. This section needs a lot of work to bring it current.

Chairman, Wayne Hayward – Reviewed the history of street acceptances and felt that it need more work.

William Roth – Reviewed the remaining sections.

Rene Fleurent – commented on section 316-1.A about the 2/3 vote requirement for a chairman to succeed himself more than two terms. He felt it was a failsafe.

General discussion on the issue ensued.

William Roth – I will take all of your comments and refine the section some more and it is my goal to have one more work session on this and then go to a public hearing.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE**

**V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

1) Lori Walsh Resignation Letter

William Roth – Presented the Board with an email resignation letter. I have spoken to Chairman Hayward about this and it is my recommendation that we contact the next applicant from our last interviews and she if she would like the job. If not that we would need to advertize the job. I ask that you vote to allow this procedure.

Gary Staffon motioned to contact the next applicant for the last interviews an offer her the job. If she declines than advertize for the vacant position. Second by Jaime DeSousa. Unanimous vote of the Planning Board.

2) Authorization of Chairman to sign Planning Board Payroll

William Roth – The Town Accountant recently asked me for the authorization by the Planning Board for the Chairman to sign payroll. I informed her that the Chairman has always signed off on payroll and I was not aware of any formal vote. After some discussion it was decided that it was best if the Planning Board took a formal vote to allow the Chairman to authorize payroll expenditures.

Rene Fleurent motioned to allow the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Planning Board for any and all payroll expenditures. Second by Gary Staffon. Unanimous vote of the Planning Board.

William Roth – I anticipate that the next Planning Board meeting will be August 9, 2011. I will send out your packet and notice the week prior.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Gary Staffon and second by Jaime DeSousa to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Unanimous vote of the Planning Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

William D. Roth  
Director, Planning & Economics Department