

# **Town Council Meeting Minutes March 11, 2013**

## **Roll Call**

Councilors Farber, Payne, Pierce, Rodden, Varney, Mahoney were present and answering roll call.

Councilor Orestis was absent.

## **Item 1      Continuation of Community Forum organized by the Community Development Committee (CDC) regarding the proposed Route One Infrastructure Plan and Zoning Amendments.**

Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long-range Planning, Tom Errico, traffic engineer from TY Lin, Councilor Rodden and Councilor Pierce narrated the presentation. Councilors first engaged in a conversation, much which was about TIF funding advantages, the TIF amendment/extension proposal to DECD, the history of TIF work plans, TIF eligible projects and the proposal for underground power.

Chair Varney opened a public comment period.

Russ Anderson was the only member of the public who spoke. He said this is the center of commerce for the town and it is important to invest the money into this area. The flow of traffic is critically important. He said there is a need for updated renderings to reflect the island changes. He is a big fan of the project. He is not sure about underground power but thought the Town might regret the decision if they don't bury the power.

## **Item 2      Request for Council endorsement of a \$35,000 grant application to PACTS to prepare a Falmouth Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Update.**

Councilor Pierce moved the order; Councilor Rodden seconded.

Councilor Payne was concerned that the amount of money seems high for the scope of work.

Councilor Rodden mentioned that the project was in the Council's work plan and staff was trying to implement the directive of the Council.

Motion carried 5-1 (Payne).

**Item 3      Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to move parks operations and maintenance from the Public Works Department to the Community Programs Department and to clearly assign the responsibility of open space management to the Community Programs Department.**

Councilor Pierce moved the order; Councilor Rodden seconded.

Councilor Rodden asked for an explanation on the staffing level compared to before a 2008 reduction in Parks staff.

Lucky D'Ascanio, Community Programs Director, said the intention was to fund an additional full time position to bring the staffing back to 2008 levels but current budget challenges have forced them to only add one seasonal position.

Motion carried 6-0.

**Item 4      Introduction of a zoning amendment by Councilor Pierce at the request of staff for changes to Section 6 regarding nonconforming structures.**

Councilor Pierce offered a summary of the proposal.

Justin Brown, Code Enforcement Officer, offered a more in depth explanation of the amendment. The Council praised Mr. Brown for his work and very professional preparation and presentation.

A public hearing was scheduled for April 8.

**Item 5      Discussion about future Council agendas.**

Councilor Mahoney asked that staff look into expanding public safety escorts for championship athletic, arts and academic teams. He also asked that the Council consider a future agenda item concerning panhandling.

**Adjourn**

Councilor Mahoney moved to adjourn; Councilor Pierce seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Poore, Town Manager  
Melissa Tryon, Recording Secretary