

SEEKONK PLANNING BOARD
Regular Meeting

MINUTES
April 26, 2011

Present: Ch. Abelson, M. Bourque, S. Foulkes, T. Clancy and L. Dunn
J. Hansen, Town Planner

Absent: R. Bennett (with cause)

7:00 pm Ch. Abelson called the meeting to order.

Discussion: Bylaw Amendments

J. Hansen Sandy I believe you and Bill who is no longer on the board requested to discuss this so I will leave the discussion to you.

S. Foulkes I don't remember off hand I'm sure there are a few things.

Ch. Abelson I think you were concerned that things not fall between through the cracks and make our by-law amendments so we have a tighter rein on them.

S. Foulkes Yes that's it. It is almost like when the incident happens we need to write it down. I know we have gotten better but I guess we can't do much on this tonight I apologize I don't have much on this subject right now.

Ch. Abelson We will table this to a future meeting.

Discussion: Update on Taunton Avenue Tax Title

J. Hansen Moving forward on this process. Habitat for Humanity is interested in working with us. We need to go to the Zoning Board because it is in a business zone and we want to put a residential use on it as well as some variances for setbacks. We won't know that until we get plans drawn up. InSite Engineering has offered to donate their services. I spoke with the Housing Authority to have them take the lead on this but they don't have the ability at this time to expand right now. They are supportive so I don't want you to misconstrue that but the Director hasn't received any clear direction from her board. I'm not afraid to ask you this board for clear direction so if you are comfortable with this and want me to take the lead from the town side and work with InSite and Habitat we can go forward. I will ask that you approve utilizing our funds to put in the legal ad. Insite said they

would be willing to donate their services but not the money for legal ads or applications.

S. Foulkes Who is responsible for cleaning the site? DPW?

J. Hansen DPW has offered their services since it is a town owned site.

M. Bourque made a motion that the Planning Board endorse the project and expenditure of funds for the legal ad. Seconded by T. Clancy and so voted by: Ch. Abelson, S. Foulkes, M. Bourque, L. Dunn, T. Clancy

VOTE (5-0) Approved

Discussion: Planning Department Hours

S. Foulkes Somebody was looking to come down on a Friday and the office was closed the Friday before the Patriots Day holiday. Someone asked me is the Planning Dept. closed and I said no not aware that it was, but anyway it was someone else I can't remember if they work here or had been here said that this frequently happens in this department where when it is a Monday holiday Friday the office is closed. I think it is two issues here we have a communication issue and a courtesy issue. So I said to John if the office is going to be closed we should have at least an email or on the website that the office will be closed Friday due to no staffing. Also when John goes on these conferences, which I know is not often we should know about it, he is working for the board so I would request that. That is the reason why I wanted this to be discussed .

J. Hansen The first thing is because of the amount of ZBA meetings this year Chris is close to the end of her hours for the fiscal year. So she will need to work less than her scheduled 25 a week. The reason being is because of the number of meetings but also they cut the ability for us to go to the reserve fund for overtime. The ZBA wants Chris at their meetings. I am of the mind that for a meeting like this when it is not a public hearing and no motions need to be written exactly, I don't think it is necessary because I would rather have them in the office.

Ch. Abeslons And we have the tape.

J. Hansen That's about it.

L. Dunn Does that answer your issue?

S. Foulkes We should discuss that if we are all in agreement not that we can do anything about the hours.

Ch. Abelson I think we have to do that if we want someone to be here during the day.

J. Hansen We did go over the schedule today to eliminate the overlap between Chris and Florice so we can cover the office. But there maybe times no one is there or I am on the phone. We will be open but no one is in the office. It is a possibility until the end of fiscal year.

S. Foulkes Part of that unknowing if you are scheduled to be off not part of normal routine put it on the website or email us. Just so we are aware.

Ch. Abelson We are pretty well set with this.

M. Bourque made a motion to have as much office coverage as possible by reducing overlapping hours between the two office planning employees as possible Also not have a clerk present a regular planning board meeting and only at Public Hearings if circumstances are such one is needed to take exact minutes. And if the office is to going to be closed for any reason the Board be notified by email and it be posted on the website. Seconded by T. Clancy and so voted by: Ch. Abelson, S. Foulkes, M. Bourque, L. Dunn, T. Clancy

VOTE (5-0) Approved

Correspondence

Conservation Commission approval of Greenbrier received. Board tells abutters that applicant will be contacted about buffer.

Adjournment:

M. Bourque made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by T. Clancy and so voted unanimously by: Ch. Abelson, M Bourque, S. Foulkes, L. Dunn, T. Clancy

VOTE: (5-0) approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Florice Craig, Secretary