

**SEEKONK PLANNING BOARD
Regular Meeting**

**MINUTES
August 23, 2011**

Present: Ch. Abelson, S. Foulkes, R. Bennett, R. Horsman, M. Bourque
J. Hansen, Town Planner

Absent: L. Dunn (with cause)

7:04 pm Ch. Abelson called the meeting to order.

Posting of Surety Extension: Ricard St. Extension

Continued until the September 27, 2011 Planning Board meeting.

A motion was made by R. Horsman, seconded by M. Bourque, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To make the next agenda item Liquor License Overlay

Discussion: Liquor License Overlay

Selectman Francis Cavaco made a presentation to the Planning Board about the Liquor License Overlay District. The proposed area from the BOS would be from the Showcase Cinema on Fall River Avenue to beginning of Route 6 on the East Providence line ending at and including Seekonk Square Plaza on Commerce Way. Mr. Cavaco went on to say Senator Timilty advised him that the easiest and fastest way to obtain additional liquor licenses would be to create an overlay district. Mr. Cavaco commented that additional liquor licenses would be very beneficial in creating more revenue for the Town of Seekonk.

Ch. Abelson said he is in favor of additional liquor licenses.

Mr. Cavaco described the chain of events on how the Town would obtain as many new liquor licenses as possible. He then went on to explain the differences between a grandfathered license and a new one and said the new licenses would be address-specific. If it went to Town Meeting in November and passed it would then go to Boston in January. He surmised it would take at least a year from start to finish.

Ch. Abelson commented that given the timing it really should be presented at the upcoming Fall Town Meeting.

S. Foulkes asked if the State had a finite amount of licenses.

Mr. Cavaco said the State bases the amount of licenses on the population of the town and the way it is now Seekonk is over the amount of liquor licenses based on population.

R. Bennett commented that the State should take into consideration the influx population that comes into Seekonk daily and base the population numbers on that information. He noted the population increases considerably on weekends and during the holiday season.

R. Horsman summarized by stating that what the BOS was looking for from the Planning Board was to write the Overlay District Bylaw and have the Public Hearing for it so the BOS can present it at Fall Town Meeting.

A motion was made by R. Horsman, seconded by M. Bourque, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To have the Town Planner write a draft Liquor License Overlay Bylaw which would make the overlay district the Highway Business Zone on Rt.6 with the exception of the area where the proposed Wal-Mart is to be built.

Discussion: Future Public Road Acceptances

J. Hansen summarized his conversation and correspondence with the Town of Sandwich on the information they provided concerning road takings. The Sandwich Asst. Town Manager conveyed at first the road moratorium was great but as roads deteriorated and as residents moved in and out the roads became worse and there was no consistency in residents fixing them. He said he would recommend the alternative which would be to ask for increased funding for DPW at Town Meeting.

R. Horsman commented that having a road moratorium was something he wanted to look into but after talking with residents and due to the opposition from several Planning Board members he was willing to drop the issue.

Members of the Planning Board commented that they were glad to get the information but agreed not to put a moratorium on road acceptances.

Discussion: Master Plan Update

J. Hansen discussed Horsley Witten's preliminary draft updates on certain sections of the Master Plan handed out in the PB packets.

R. Horsman commented and J. Hansen agreed that if someone from the public or a Town Board member was interviewed for comments and mentioned in the Master Plan then their credentials should be added to the reference page.

S. Foulkes asked that in the text whenever the word "feel" was used it should be replaced by the word "think" because the word feel is an emotion not a thought process. S. Foulkes made several

other grammatical/typographical corrections and J. Hansen made note of these for Horsley Witten.

A motion was made by R. Horsman, seconded by S. Foulkes, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve all sections of the Master Plan submitted at the 8/23/11 Planning Board meeting with the corrections mentioned.

Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2011

Prior to vote S. Foulkes pointed out several grammatical errors.

A motion was made by R. Horsman seconded by M. Bourque and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the minutes of July 12, 2011 with the corrections mentioned.

Approval of Minutes – July 26, 2011

Prior to vote S. Foulkes pointed out several grammatical errors.

A motion was made by R. Horsman seconded by S. Foulkes

**VOTED: To accept the minutes of July 26, 2011 with the corrections mentioned.
4 Ayes; M. Bourque - Abstain - not in attendance on 7/26/11.**

Adjournment:

A motion was made by R. Horsman seconded by S. Foulkes and it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Florice Craig, Secretary