

PLANNING BOARD

TOWN OF TISBURY
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MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 16, 2017
TIME: 6:05 PM
PLACE: Town Hall Annex, 66 High Point Lane, Tisbury, MA
ATTENDANCE: Bellante-Holand, Doble, Robinson, Seidman
MINUTES: As referred in the August 9, 2017 Meeting Agenda

APPOINTMENTS:

6:05 PM Public Hearing: Special Permit Application by Larkin Reeves, AP 09C01
Attendance: K. Scott, town resident

Planning Board Chairman, B. Robinson opened the hearing to read the notice of continuation into the record of the minutes. He informed the Board that the applicant's representative was advised of their progress to secure a fifth board member, and agreed to continue the hearing until September 20, 2017.

The hearing notice continued the hearing until September 20, 2017 at 6PM. The Planning Board concurred with the date and time of the continuation and resumed their regularly scheduled meeting at 6:07 PM.

6:07 PM Interviews for Planning Board/Associate Member: Paul Munafo and Elaine Miller
Attendance: K. Scott

P. Munafo's interest in serving on the Board stemmed from his concern about the town's future. As a member of the Board, he hoped to contribute in some way to help the town move forward and was willing to "do whatever it took".

B. Robinson commented that it required a commitment of time and effort, because there were plenty of projects that had to be completed. The work load was beyond the ability of a volunteer board and one staff member. They needed time and manpower to move the projects along.

D. Bellante-Holand indicated that it would serve the board if applicants could volunteer daytime hours to attend meetings or workgroups that fed into some of the work they did in the evening at the scheduled meetings. It could involve the commitment of a couple of hours a week during business hours. It was a function she did not expect when she began volunteering on the Planning Board.

B. Robinson agreed, and advised P. Munafo that the Planning Board was involved in many projects that require some flexibility to meet with other town boards, and subcommittees in addition to fulfilling their adjudicatory responsibilities. He felt they were very pressed to fill the vacancies on the Board to get back on course. P. Munafo did not understand why they required the assistance of the MV Commission. Board members replied that the MV Commission had paid staff and the expertise to guide them and assist them with their projects. D. Seidman added that they also provided an additional layer of review that helped protect the town's interests. D. Bellante-Holand did not believe it was in the town's or Planning Board's best interest to discontinue their working relationship, because everything would then fall on the shoulders of the local boards. It was unrealistic.

B. Robinson also felt they had to be self-motivated. They've all felt overwhelmed from time to time, and have struggled to keep a project moving forward. A fully motivated board was an asset to the town.

Board members advised P. Munafo that there were two vacancies on the Board that needed to be filled, each of which had a different role and responsibilities. They were explained in detailed. B. Robinson noted that the term for the full board member would be for one year, after which he would have to run for election to cover the duration of the H. Stephenson's term. The Associate Member was a joint appointment for five years .

D. Bellante-Holand asked P. Munafo if he knew how much time he could commit to the Board's activities, if he had a preference for email communication over printed materials, and if he had any goals or projects , he wanted to achieve while serving on the board. P. Munafo replied that he wanted to improve the Beach Road corridor between Packer's property and the Draw Bridge and make it attractive and user friendly. He recalled that the Community Preservation Committee awarded the DPW funds in 2011 to construct the bicycle path on the Lagoon side to Winds Up, but had yet to use the funds to create the path. D. Seidman explained that the project required the cooperative efforts of the town, MassDOT and federal government. C. Doble noted that there were plans in place to improve the seawall and stretch of road on the harbor side. B. Robinson also noted that the town did not have the necessary financial sources, so that they had to research other funding sources, which took time i.e. Complete Streets.

D. Bellante-Holand inquired if P. Munafo could be assigned to the projects he was interested in most. B. Robinson noted that in the short term there were time sensitive projects they had to complete. In the long term, he did not see an issue with the suggestion. He did not want the Board to spread themselves too thin. She inquired if there were any projects that would benefit from a fresh view or perspective. B. Robinson

thought the Complete Street offered a “whole basket of projects” in addition to Union Street, the gateway, Veteran’s Park and Beach Road, but thought J. Grande was working on this year’s projects with the town’s professional staff. The Planning Board had to begin working on projects they wanted funding for next year. Additional discussions ensued with this regard, and D. Bellante-Holand inquired if P. Munafo had some flexibility in his work schedule during the day that would allow him to attend meetings. He clarified that he was still employed, but that he had some flexibility in his work schedule. D. Bellante-Holand raised the issue, because she was thinking that it would benefit the Board if the person could fill the vacancy on the MV Land Bank Advisory Board.

K. Scott thought there were a number of projects of interest to the community that could benefit from some publicity. She asked the Board if they considered writing a newspaper column to let people know about controversial issues, future projects, etc. D. Bellante-Holand thought it was an excellent suggestion and thought it was a project she could pursue on the Board’s behalf.

B. Robinson reiterated that there were two positions. P. Munafo indicated that he was open to either position, but would prefer being a voting member. Planning Board members thanked P. Munafo for his letter of interest, and advised him that the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen were required to vote jointly on the appointment, which was scheduled on September 6, 2017 at 6PM. P. Munafo was invited to the second round of interviews, and he accepted.

***Board members were advised that E. Miller had emailed staff twice to notify the Planning Board that she was making every effort to make the Planning Board for the interview. E. Miller indicated that she was on vacation off-island, but intended to return for the interview.

C. Doble did not like conducting an interview prior to the joint vote because of the pressure. She did not feel it was fair to the applicant and the Board to rush through the process. D. Seidman concurred, and asked if they could re-schedule her interview on August 30th. B. Robinson thought they could add E. Miller to the agenda on 8/30/17, if they were already meeting on the date.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS:

1. MV Land Bank
Re: Planning Board’s appointee (postponed)

B. Robinson recommended postponing the discussions until they appointed the new members to the Planning Board. Board members agreed.

2. Planning Board Draft Projects
 - A. Complete Streets

B. Robinson notified the Board that J. Grande, Town Administrator discovered an email he had received during his vacation stating that the town did not secure the road safety audits for the grant. He was relying on J. Grande to secure the road safety audits and using the professional staff to implement the projects.

He explained that there were a couple projects that were in fact being implemented this winter, for which the funding was available until September 2018. D. Seidman was concerned that they had to wait on MassDOT to complete the audits. C. Doble inquired about the number and roads that were missing. B. Robinson replied that they included a couple of the major gateways (Water Street, Union Street). C. Doble noted that this was typical of the state to make last minute requests and changes in their requirements.

B. Robinson noted that the Planning Board had to start on the next round of projects for the following year which included the bike path connection from Beach Road to Lagoon Pond Road, Cromwell Lane (Union St.-Beach St.) He felt they needed the assistance of a separate study committee for Cromwell Lane, if they were going to move forward on the project. B. Robinson thought they should solicit volunteers among the people that use the lane and access their properties from the road (Josh Goldstein, Kate Scott, Velario DeStefani and police (Eric Meisner). It was suggested that they should include a member of the Planning Board and J. Grande. B. Robinson offered to put the list together for the Planning Board.

C. Doble inquired about the stretch of road on Lagoon Pond between the museum and the small bridge. B. Robinson offered to meet with J. Varkonda to discuss any issues with the road and bridge improvements.

Also noted during the discussions were the issues presented by the MV Museum's project relative to the applicants' non-compliance with the Board of Selectmen's MOU pertaining to outdoor events and the noise levels from these events. There were questions about the extent of the Board of Selectmen's scope of address regarding the grant of land uses above that allowed by zoning regulation and through state recognized special permit granting authorities, and the enforcement of their MOU.

Planning Board members expressed concern, but did not want to weigh in the subject at the moment, but thought they should broach the subject with M. Loberg at the next meeting she attends.

B. Owen Park

C. Zoning

Board members were advised that A. Turner was not available to attend a meeting on August 30th to initiate the discussions on zoning. The discussions had to be postponed until September 6th when A. Turner returned from vacation. C. Doble recommended an agenda to hold a productive meeting. B. Robinson indicated that he wanted to set up a work group outside Planning Board's meetings with T. Peak leading the direction. C.

Doble thought they needed the assistance of a consultant to complete the project, and hoped A. Turner could help them find funding sources.

D. Bellante-Holand thought meetings in August were difficult to make, and recommended against holding a meeting, if the key people were unable to attend. She was not interested in attending, if they were simply going to reiterate their conversation with A. Turner or T. Peak the week after. It further concerned her that the Board was not focused in their discussions so that oftentimes their meetings ran long without necessarily accomplishing the end goal.

B. Robinson advised the Board that they could always revise the meeting date, if the Board did feel it was productive to discuss the potential amendments without A. Turner and T. Peak. D. Seidman thought it was important to have T. Peak present for the discussions, if they were going to rely on him to lead the project. C. Doble and D. Bellante-Holand concurred.

D. Bellante-Holand recommended setting aside an hour of their meeting time exclusively for this project to meet the open meeting law. C. Doble concurred, and felt the Board has been very obliging to people, which has disrupted their ability to move forward on their agendas and projects. D. Bellante-Holand concurred, and recommended postponing the discussions until all parties could attend, and setting time aside (work sessions) at their next regularly scheduled meeting. C. Doble supported D. Bellante-Holand's recommendation because it allowed her and the Board to research the topics and prepare for a more productive discussion. B. Robinson understood and agreed.

B. Robinson believed they had to find out how much funding they had, how much the MV Commission was willing to contribute, whether they should hire a consultant, and set up a work group, etc. In a discussion with A. Turner, the latter recommended moving forward on revising the bylaw if that was the ultimate outcome. They could recodify the regulations as they made the revisions.

C. Doble thought they had to pinpoint the areas of the bylaws that had to be changed. D. Seidman concurred with D. Bellante-Holand. C. Doble recommended discussing the topics that needed to be amended. B. Robinson thought they had mentioned cluster zoning, multi-family homes, accessory apartments, etc.

Board members in addition agreed to contact E. Miller to re-schedule her interview on August 30th at 6 PM, and; postponing their meeting with A. Turner and T. Peak until September 6 at a time to be announced on the agenda.

D. Open Space Planning

C. Doble indicated that she has been working on a survey that she hoped to complete for a test run by the end of the week. Once tested, she wanted to set up a web address for the survey and email it out to the Vision Council members.

E. Other projects

D. Bellante-Holand inquired if there were any projects that were close to completion that they could move forward, such as Veteran's Park or Owen Park.

B. Robinson noted that they had the funds to complete the pathway into Veteran's Park.

C. Doble explained that the project was somewhat complicated and that they were working with the DPW to relocate the telephone pole and irrigation system. They had the funds to demolish and reconstruct the wall, but they had to wait on the DPW decisions regarding the infrastructure. D. Bellante-Holand appreciated the fact that the DPW was very busy, but the department also serves the town, so that perhaps they should consider a different approach, and give the DPW Dir. the information about the project, the funds and expected completion date. B. Robinson recommended addressing this with the Town Administrator.

D. Bellante-Holand inquired about the green space in front of the parking area and their plans for the project. C. Doble replied that they needed an engineering plan for the wall and a planting plan with some detention capacity. D. Bellante-Holand inquired if they needed professionals to develop the plans, or a matter that could be taken care of in-house. B. Robinson indicated that they needed to hire consultants for the plans. J. Grande had to produce the RFPs for the consultants and work, because they funds were already set aside. C. Doble hoped that they would go out by the end of August or next week at the latest. B. Robinson concurred and offered to meet with the town administrator to inquire about the RFPs. D. Bellante-Holand thought this was a good subject to write about in the paper.

Vision Council

C. Doble noted that the Planning Board has relied on the Vision Council for several projects, and wanted the Planning Board to help her schedule topics for future meetings. B. Robinson and Board members recommended: 1) way finding, nitrogen loading, complete streets, open space, zoning and Natalie's work on sea level rising.

It was suggested that Natalie's final report should be posted on the website. B. Robinson understood a separate student group was coming down to the Vineyard in September 2017. C. Doble advised the Board that a student group was visiting the island to study the whole area between Mud Creek and Veteran's Park for storm water runoff, re-establishing vegetation, etc.

3. Tisbury Government Study Panel Re: Planning Board's Appointment

P. Harris reported that E. Eugster had returned her call to confirm that she was in fact still interested in serving on the study panel, and open to meeting with the Board of

Selectmen, the town moderator and the Finance & Advisory Committee. Stephen Zablotny in an email indicated that he was open to meeting with the other town boards, but that he would prefer serving as the Planning Board's appointee.

B. Robinson thought they should move forward on their appointment and refer the remaining candidate to the town moderator, Finance Committee and Selectmen. D. Seidman concurred and moved to appoint S. Zablotny to the Tisbury Government Study Panel. C. Doble seconded the motion, and the motion carried. 4/0/0

D. Bellante-Holand recommended sending E. Euguster an email thanking her for her flexibility, because it allowed the Planning Board to move forward on a difficult decision. D. Seidman recommending adding language encouraging her to meet with the other boards.

4. Tisbury Post Office RE: Plantings

B. Robinson was informed that the Post Office had revised their previous decision regarding the donated plantings, so that they no longer had to be removed. The last communication indicated that the Post Office would no longer accept any more plantings. He thought the incident provided the town with an opportunity to address other important issues with the Post Office. When he heard the Selectmen were writing a letter to the Post Office to comment on their decision, he asked if the Planning Board could sign on the Selectmen's letter.

D. Seidman took offense to the use of the term "postmistress", and thought they should change the reference to "Postmaster". Discussions ensued and D. Bellante-Holand thought it inappropriate to word smith the letter, if the Planning Board asked to sign on. If the intent was to agree on the general content of the letter, they either endorsed the letter or not. B. Robinson did not have an issue letting the Board of Selectmen know that they were inconsistent in their reference to the position of postmaster in the body of the letter, when they made reference to the headmistress. D. Bellante-Holand felt that the type of detail made them look ridiculous. D. Seidman could not support the letter.

D. Bellante-Holand thought they could convey to the Board of Selectmen that they support the intention of the letter and the efforts of the postmaster. C. Doble moved to support the content of the letter and offer a recommendation to correct the one inconsistency that they may want to correct. D. Bellante-Holand seconded the motion, which motion carried. 4/0/0

5. C. Doble advised the Board that the Tisbury School Building Committee changed their meeting schedule to the second and fourth Monday of the month, which conflicted with the Community Preservation Committee meetings. She was uncertain about what to do, and thought of asking the committees if they would consider changing their meeting

D. Bellante-Holand inquired about the meeting schedule. C. Doble replied that both met on Monday evening at 5PM. The Community Preservation Committee meets once a month and the school building committee meets twice a month. D. Bellante-Holand thought C. Doble's participation in both committees was valuable, such that missing a couple of meetings was much less problematic than replacing her. Board members agreed.

1. Martha's Vineyard Commission
A. 8/11/17 Extended Meeting Schedule
B. 8/14/17 LUPC Meeting Agenda

Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting

Patricia V. Harris, Secretary

Benjamin Robinson
Chairman