



TOWN COUNCIL
Committee to Review Zoning and Permitting Regulations
Selectmen's Conference Room
Thursday March 23, 2017 – 6:00PM

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: President of the Town Council Eric R. Steinhilber; Vice-President James Crocker; Councilor Jessica Rapp-Grassetti, Councilor John Norman, Councilor Fred Chirigotis; Councilor Deborah Dagwan

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Eric R. Steinhilber, President of the Town Council who read the charge of the Committee:

Charge: To evaluate current zoning regulations and permitting processes and to identify impediments to a more streamlined, efficient, and common-sense approach to allow new development, re-development of blighted properties, and new businesses to move forward in a timely and cost effective manner. The committee will identify needed improvements and develop a list recommended changes to current zoning and permitting regulations to help address needs in housing, infrastructure, job creation, blighted property revitalization, and new growth.

Administrator to the Town Council Cynthia A. Lovell asked for nominations from the floor for Chair of the Committee. Councilor Jessica Rapp Grassetti nominated Vice president James Crocker Jr.; this was seconded by Councilor Fred Chirigotis, all members present voted in favor of Vice President James Crocker Jr. as Chair of the Committee to Review Zoning and Permitting Regulations

Chair of the Committee stated that each of here tonight have been on so many various committees and he feels by far this is one of the most he is excited to be on, and feels that the members that have been placed on this committee will be doing some great work going forward. The Charge is so well defined that we should be able to get a wide variety of guest that will provide some feedback, and out of that some short corrections that we can implement right away, and then look at some long term goals and once we do that this town will be some much better to deal with, the Chair has asked the Committee members how often the Committee would like to meet and with that being said he would like to meet twice a week, and asked for a day that best suits everyone. The Chair does not expect everyone to make every meeting, but if we meet twice a week that will give us time to get the small issues out of the way and then we can move onto the legislative issues if there is any.

Chair of the Committee asked the members about which area of priority is utmost importance to this Committee to start on first, then we can call those people in that are involved with the project to find out where the project is and if we can get things moving.

The Chair of the Committee would also like to look at the ordinances to see if those need to be opened up a little or if the ordinances that were put into place long ago are still working today. Councilor John Norman mentioned that there are some areas that have mixed uses that maybe should not be of mixed use, there are some that may need to be looked at for that to be released or loosen up a little so maybe more neighborhoods are built for that community feel.

Councilor Norman stated that apartment buildings seem to be the trend in some areas that will work in the downtown area, because people like that city living feeling where they can walk to stores and do not have to rely on a car. Councilor Dagwan mentioned that there are people that like to walk everywhere and know that they can shop and walk and go home.

Chair of the Committee said obviously with changes and more building, we need to look at the infrastructure having to do with water and sewage and to make sure it can support the growth. Chair of

the Committee will look at inviting engineers to the next meeting so that we can hear about the construction and where the rules are strangling the permitting process. Chair of the Committee will ask an outside engineer to appear at the next meeting and then after that would be a commercial realtor and then after that an appraiser.

Councilor John Norman would like to also ask our own staff from regulatory and zoning to a meeting so that we can hear them and their understanding of the zoning and regulatory documents.

Chair of the Committee will ask the Department of Public Works Director, Dan Santos to have a liaison assigned to this Committee so they can actively partake in the discussions and be there for any questions we have. Administrator Cynthia A. Lovell will ask Elizabeth Jenkins to have someone from the Planning Board as a liaison for this Committee as well.

Chair of the Committee Vice President James Crocker Jr. asked for a motion to adjourn; Councilor Fred Chirigotis made the motion to adjourn, Councilor John Norman seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor of adjournment.

ADJOURN: 6:29pm