

Planning Board Minutes
November 16, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.
Town Council Chambers
125 Main Street
East Greenwich, RI

Members Present: Steve Brusini, Chair; Michael Donegan, Vice Chair; Chris Russo; Ben Lupovitz; Dan Tagliatela,

Members Absent: Nate Ginsburg; Jason Gomez; Brad Turchetta

Staff present: Lisa Bourbonnais, Planning Director; Aaron Lindo, Planning Assistant; Sydney Kirsch, Legal Counsel; Tom Coyle, Town Manager; Mark Schwager, Town Councilman

Mr. Brusini opened the meeting at 7:06PM and introduced those present. As the Chair-elect, Mr. Donegan took over as acting Chair.

1. Discussion – Regulation Revisions: The Town of East Greenwich is considering amending its land development and subdivision review regulations. Changes would affect Sections 11 through 22 of the regulations and would alter the submission requirements for all levels of review of major and minor land developments/subdivisions. Per Sections 30 and 31 of said regulations, the Planning Board has the authority to amend the regulations following an advertised public hearing on the changes. Staff requests a discussion of the Draft revisions and the Board may order the amendments advertised.

There were no members of the public to comment on this discussion. Mr. Donegan invited Mrs. Bourbonnais to give some background. She explained the electronic packet distribution system that has been previously mentioned and commented that the Planning Board does not accommodate electronic submissions. Also, the current checklists are outdated and need to reflect the current composition of the TRC and the Board. The checklists were corrected to update the numbers of copies and electronic submission requirements.

Mr. Russo asked if the electronic submissions would be in addition to physical submissions. The changes provide for electronic submissions in addition to physical submissions with the goal of being just electronic somewhere down the line. The idea is to submit image files as it is very costly and wasteful to make large paper plan sets every time a project is altered. TRC submissions would still be physical plans as the committee members mark up the plan sets.

Mr. Tagliatela had a question regarding A260-3, Attachment 6, 2nd page, about Auto CAD not being needed anymore. The Town doesn't own the latest version of AutoCAD so the language is no longer relevant. An accepted submission could be in PDF, GIS or a drawing file. Even when submissions are fully electronic, there will be mylar and paper copies submitted for Final Plan approval and recording.

Mr. Brusini commented that copies should replace photocopies and that “complete” should be defined as “complete as determined by the Planning Department.”

Mrs. Bourbonnais commented that there are 191 residential units under review and 300+ more will be reviewed next year so it is an optimal time to do regulation changes. State law has changed in small ways and the Town has to accommodate the changes (e.g.: accessory family dwelling units) so additional language modifications will likely be presented soon.

2. Minutes: Approval of the October 19, 2016 meeting minutes.

Mr. Brusini made a correction to page 2, top paragraph, that read “It was determined by the Board and the applicant that the notification would appear in the recorded subdivision plan...” and commented that “...and in the purchase and sales agreements” should be added to be consistent with the decision. The changes were made. The motion to pass the minutes was made by Mr. Lupovitz, seconded by Mr. Russo, and passed unanimously.

3. Planning Board Member Comments: For items not on the agenda and not relating to specific applications.

Mr. Brusini brought up a joint meeting with the Cove Commission to discuss and make a thoughtful recommendation to the Town Council regarding the transfer station and waterfront. Mrs. Bourbonnais concurred and advised that both Boards will be in the loop on a forthcoming meeting which will be firmed up soon.

Mrs. Bourbonnais highlighted the Harris Marina demolition and commented that students from RWU are developing a site plan for the re-use of the area.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Russo, seconded by Mr. Tagliatela. Meeting adjourned at 7:41PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aaron Lindo, Planning Assistant.

For further information, please refer to the recording available in the Planning Department.