

St. George Public Planning Board Meeting
7:00PM at Town Office and via Zoom
February 27, 2024
Minutes

The Planning Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Planning Board Members present were Chair Anne Cox, Richard Moskowitz, Michael B. Jordan, Jane Brown, Alison Briggs and Elaine Taylor. Also present in person were CEO Terry Brackett, Joline Wilson and Wendy Carr.

Quorum:

A quorum was present. Cogger was absent. Briggs was elevated to voting status.

Conflicts of Interest:

There were no conflicts of interest.

Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Public Comment

Chair Cox

Part of what we are planning to do is to call for a public hearing on these two ordinance amendments. We'll have to advertise. We are going to have a town wide public hearing about them, but we have been working on them. Have you seen them?

Joline Wilson

I have not. These notes that you are putting out now are just going to be coming out. Right?

Chair Cox

Right.

Joline Wilson

I missed a big meeting last week. Was this last week?

Chair Cox

It was a month ago. It was in January.

Joline Wilson

I did read something about that.

Chair Cox

Now that we have approved them, they will be available and published for you to read them and likewise, the amendments to the ordinance will be available for everyone and then we will have the hearing where we will be raising concerns about them. And so, you will be able to see them in there. Just so you know, there are a few issues that the state DEP had with our some of the changes we made and what the town approved at the last town meeting with the town vote. The Shoreland Zoning is a special category. They are basically just some housekeeping things that people will have to look at, and then the other larger amendment has to do with the auxiliary housing units. That is responding to a state mandate. We have to have something in place by July. This will be coming before the town.

Joline Wilson

So, these amendments that you are talking about to the ordinance, are they specifically for this Port Clyde area with The General Store?

Chair Cox

No. They are for the Town of St. George. It is townwide and there will be a public hearing, so you will be able to hear all that.

Jordan

It will be voted on at the town meeting in May.

Chair Cox

That is the plan. It will be published on the town website, and you will be able to get a copy from the Town Office as well. So, let us look at the timeline. Michael, you are going to take us through the schedule.

Jordan

Right. The constraint is that the public hearing has to be held at least ten days before the town meeting. We have to have it a bit earlier than that. There is a little room if it needs to go later. It is scheduled now for Thursday, March 21st. It could go into the following week, if we had to. The other issue is the requirement that we advertise this twice, once at least twelve days before the public hearing and once at least seven days. In order to make that schedule, we would have to place the ad so that the first ad will show up on Thursday, March 7th, which I think means placing it tomorrow with the Courier Gazette. Now that is a little less time than we normally provide to do it, but really, this whole schedule will not

work unless we can actually do that. If we cannot, there is a fallback, and that is to advertise in the Bangor Daily News because that is a daily paper.

Briggs

Is that more money?

Jordan

It is more money.

Brackett

I think we can get it done.

Jordan

Either tonight or the first thing in the morning, I'll send a revised version of the notice that I did before. Well, first of all, I guess we need to decide whether we can do this on March 21st at 6:00pm or whether we need to do it a little bit later based on what people's schedules are.

Chair Cox

Is there a problem with March 21st, which is a Thursday? I don't know how people feel about 6:00pm as opposed to 7:00pm. I don't know. We have no idea how many people we would have and so we can have it in the big room on a Thursday.

Brackett

I can't promise that.

Chair Cox

If we could, that'd be great.

Brackett

I'll try to schedule the big one.

Jordan

We can rearrange the tables and bring in more chairs. I do not think this is going to be a big draw.

Chair Cox

Maybe down here will be fine. I am getting used to being here. We are good with scheduling the 21st at 6:00pm on March 21st. Michael will send it out.

Jordan

There is a lot of other stuff here. This is just to be sure we remember to get various details handled at the appropriate time.

Brackett

Have you written the ad?

Jordan

Yes. That is the one I sent last time when I thought we were going to do it, but the date has changed. I will send a new one.

Brackett

We do have a Code Officer meeting in the morning, but we will try to get that in the paper too.

Chair Cox

Good. Any other questions? Wendy, what did I hear you say about the Select Board meeting?

Carr

We okayed the ballot question. We are official now. Thank you, Michael, for all the work you have put into that.

Adjournment

On a motion by Conrad, seconded by Moskowitz, the Board decided by a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting and at 7:20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Taylor
Recording Secretary
Town of St. George, Maine