

Westhampton Zoning Bylaws Review Committee
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present: John Shaw, Steve Gagne, Art Pichette, John Kelsey,
Ginny Curtis, Bill McCloud, Bridgid O’Riordan

1. John Shaw verbally recounted the minutes from the previous meeting, which had not yet been reduced to writing; their formal approval was put over to the next meeting.
2. The wording of the Committee’s mission statement was discussed, with Ginny Curtis making a recommendation and John Shaw offering a potential revision. This issue was tabled until such time as the Committee receives clarification from the Selectboard re: who will officially present the Committee’s recommendations to the Town (i.e., the Committee or the Planning Board).
3. The Committee agreed that the Town should file an application with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) for 2017 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), said application having a deadline of January 6, 2017. The application should come from the Selectboard, and Art Pichette agreed to draft the application and submit it, with the Selectboard’s approval. The Committee generally agrees that we should await guidance from the PVPC before delving too deeply into the Town’s zoning bylaws, as the PVPC may have useful recommendations re: which of our bylaws are most in need of revision, expansion, etc.
4. In addition to whatever revisions/expansions/etc. the Zoning Bylaw Committee may recommend, it was generally agreed that residents of the Town may also benefit from the creation and/or publication of a user-friendly “how to” guide of sorts, designed to help navigate and understand the zoning bylaws, and to answer some of the most frequently-asked questions. This sort of guidance may be beyond the limited scope of the Committee, however.
5. A contact list was circulated so that all Committee members will have each other’s emails and cell phone numbers.
6. All Committee members were reminded to get sworn in by the Town Clerk.
7. January 17, 2017 was selected as the date for the next meeting (start time 7PM).
8. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
9. The above minutes were taken and transcribed by Steve Gagne, Committee Clerk.