



## OAK BLUFFS PLANNING BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021

5:00 p.m. | Virtual Zoom Meeting

---

**Members in Attendance:** Ewell Hopkins, Bill Cleary, JoJo Lambert

**Members Absent:** Erik Albert, Mark Crossland

**Staff in Attendance:** Kim Leaird (*Administrator*)

**Attendees:**

---

*Chair Hopkins opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m.*

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Member Cleary made a motion to approve the June 24, 2021, meeting minutes. Member Lambert seconded. A roll call vote was taken and motion passed 3-0.

#### **Input from Board Members on meeting with new Town Administrator**

Chair Hopkins asked Members Cleary and Lambert if they had any topics they'd like to discuss. He will be meeting with new town administrator, Deb Potter, in the next few weeks to give her Planning Board highlights and priorities. Items discussed:

- Funding and budget of the department
- Trajectory of the Planning Board and recommendations over the next few years
- Should there be an enforcement arm to the Planning Board
- Zoning bylaws

Further discussion among board around real and perceived authority of the Planning Board with Streetscape, Shared Use Path, and other recent projects where board input seems to have been discounted. Chair Hopkins said that the role of the Planning Board is clear in both the town bylaws and under Massachusetts General Law.

Member Lambert said the public's perception is that the Planning Board had more authority over Streetscape and that we should have a meeting to explain to the public that what they approved is a visioning document, not yet a project. The Select Board will have to fill out an application to implement the visioning document and they may or may not do so in a way that will involve Planning Board oversight. Chair Hopkins said they could put this on a future agenda but first it's important to have a conversation about process. While a conceptual plan exists, there are yet no detailed plans that can be turned over to a contractor.

#### **Update on June 30 Roads and Byways Meeting**

Chair Hopkins attended the June 30 Roads and Byways meeting in Mark Crossland's absence. MassDOT was there to give a presentation on the Beach Road Shared Use Path so that Roads and Byways could give a recommendation on moving forward to the Select Board.

The presentation included the proposed work at key intersections. A unanimous vote was taken with agreement on outline and design from the drawbridge to beginning of County Road.

### Board Updates

Bill Cleary: The Green Community designation application is closer to being submitted.

On June 29, Liz Durkee sent an email about the saltwater marsh about a study taking place on both Tisbury and Oak Bluffs sides of Sengekontacket. In order to protect them, they should remove septic, remove homes as marsh migrates. Indication is that by 2050 there will be a 3 ft. sea level rise. The migration does not affect a lot of homes but it is moving fast. By early fall, hope to have a public conversation.

He said he had also heard from Richard Toole that the Landfill solar project was put on hold and wondered if Chair Hopkins knew about it.

Ewell Hopkins: Eversource had stopped all work up there in order to do its study. He asked Members Lambert and Cleary if either had thought more about initiating a DCPC request. Neither is ready to do so.

The Commission created an overlay map of the High School's athletic field project that clearly shows that approximately two-thirds of the synthetic turf field lies in the Water Resource Protection Overlay District. The map was shared on screen and briefly discussed.

### Adjourn

Member Lambert made a motion to adjourn. Member Cleary seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

\*\*\*

*Minutes approved July 22, 2021*

Documents on File: *Agenda; Board packet; zoom video*