

Wickford Plan Committee (WPC) Meeting of March 22, 2018

Members Present: J. Ehrhardt, L. Piedra, P. Galster, E. Lemieux, C Gibson, J. Chirnside, M. Morin

Members Absent: M. Suvari, J. Shapin, E. Cooney

Non-members present: S. Lacey, G Brennan, Megan Healey, Eve Clulow

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Brown Street Annex Building

E Clulow presented an overview of the plan for 55 Brown Street. The plan calls for a mixed use space for the performing arts which will include a community theater. There was concern that proposed location for elevator, necessary for ADA compliance, would affect Old Library Park. E. Clulow stated that the company will donate \$10,000 to the Plum Beach Garden Club for restoration of park after construction.

C Gibson asked which component of the project was more favored, the restaurant or performing arts. E. Clulow replied that both are favored equally. M. Healey added that the theater was the first piece of the project considered.

C. Gibson asked about the mechanisms in place to ensure historical preservation of building. E. Clulow responded that the town has right of first refusal. In addition, the Project will work with Preserve Rhode Island to create a lifetime historic facade easement, which will preserve outside of the building.

The committee asked which other groups have been spoken with about this project. The list of groups included: Wickford Village Association, NK Arts, Chamber of commerce, WEDAB, EDAB, Rotary Club, NK DEM, NK GOP, Tim Cranston, and HisWick.

The Purchase and Sales agreement should be signed tomorrow (3-23-18) and will be on the towns website soon.

The WPC discussed the draft letter to the Town Council stating support for the Brown Street Annex project.

Review of the Town's noise ordinance

Update of design guidelines

P. Galster provide the committee with an update from the Design Guidelines Steering Committee. The Design Guidelines committee decided to use generic drawings to illustrate design guidelines. They also discussed who would have justification over the review process and outlined several options. They agreed on 2-tiered process, smaller issues would be through town staff. Large issues would be Historic District Commission.

Old Town House Update

Town staff sought advice from Town Council on how property will be used. The council stated that it

will be for town meeting space. Town staff will develop a workable plan for property.

Wickford Heritage Center

Town staff put out a RFP for playground equipment.

Sewer Update

S. Lacey provided an update on the status of the sewer project.

P. Galster asked S. Lacey about West Main St. improvements and sign postage for speed limits and no through trucking.

C. Gibson motioned to approve January 2018 and February 2018 meeting minutes as amended.

Seconded by J. Chirside.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm