

Wickford Plan Committee (WPC) Meeting of May 17, 2018

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

Members Absent: M. Morin, J. Shapin, E. Lemieux

Non-members present: S. Lacey

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Wickford Plan Committee minutes of March 22, 2018

C. Gibson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Piedra. The motion carried 5-0 with E. Cooney abstaining.

Wickford Harbor sign proposal for Eating with the Ecosystem

Kate Masury presented the sign proposal on behalf of Eating with the Ecosystem, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and sustaining New England's wild seafood industry. She provided an overview of the sign concept, noting that the sign was funded by a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation and would be fabricated, installed and donated to the town in exchange for the town's willingness to maintain it. The sign would be located on the town-owned property at the end of Main Street. A majority of the committee noted its support for the concept and suggested that the sign be placed along the southeast portion of the lot within the landscaped area. The committee also suggested that the sign maintain similar dimensions to other educational marker signs found throughout the village.

Rune Stone shelter proposal

Steve DiMarzo presented the Rune Stone shelter proposal on behalf of the New England Antiquities Research Association and provided research materials to the committee as related to the history of the Rune Stone. Through the assistance of an anonymous donation, the shelter would provide a roof cover to protect the Rune Stone from weathering and vandalism. The shelter design concept would be similar to the Wickford town pump, which protected the public drinking water well that was once located at Updike Park. While a majority of the committee expressed its support for the concept, some members of the committee expressed concern that the height of the structure would impair views to the harbor. George Brennan expressed his concern about the current state of the Rune Stone and encouraged the construction of the shelter to improve the aesthetics of the area.

Discussion of village parking and noise ordinances

L. Piedra presented exhibits pertaining to anticipated parking issues in Wickford upon installation of sewers. The committee expressed concerns that the current parking ordinance may not accommodate the future increased parking demand for the village. The committee also expressed concerns that "spill-over" street parking could impact village residents. S. Lacey noted that the parking ordinance was amended in 2017 with the intent to provide an easier ordinance to enforce town-wide and not specific

to Wickford Village. He also noted that Wickford's spatial setting creates unique parking challenges which may be better resolved by adopting a long-term parking strategy. George Brennan suggested that the town contact nearby communities to learn about how they have addressed parking demand challenges.

Discussion of West Main Street curbing and sidewalk improvements and traffic calming measures

P. Galster noted that conversations between West Main Street residents and town officials regarding traffic calming measures along West Main Street are on-going. Improvements may include signage, designated bicycle lanes and reduced speed limits.

Update on the Brown Street Wickford Village Design Standards and Guidelines

S. Lacey provided a summary of the Wickford Design Guidelines Steering Committee's recommendations to the Planning Commission and Town Council. He noted that the Steering Committee is recommending that the design guidelines apply to 36 properties along Brown Street and Phillips Street and would be administered through the same members who serve the Historic District Commission through the adoption of an overlay district.

Wickford sewer project update

S. Lacey shared the notes from the May 2, 2018 Wickford Village Commercial Area Wastewater Collection System Improvements meeting with the committee.

Report(s) from Town Council liaison

There were no updates to report.

Adjournment

J. Chirside made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by M. Suvari. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.