

WEST TISBURY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES April 3, 2023 pg 1

PRESENT Ginny Jones, Matt Merry, Leah Smith, Heikki Soikkeli, Amy Upton, John Rau.

ALSO PRESENT: *(Names as they appeared on the Zoom screen)*

Marilyn Vakota, Thomas Murphy, Doug Ruskin, Brian Ditchfield, Tara Whiting-Wekks, Jeffrey DuBard, Nevette, Previd, Laura Silber, Thomas Bena, Jane Rossi.

Leah opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

MINUTES:

February 27, 2023

Ginny made a motion to approve and Amy seconded the motion. Ginny-yes, Amy-yes, Leah-yes, Heikki-yes Matt abstained.

March 20, 2023

Ginny made a motion to approve and Amy seconded the motion. Ginny-yes, Amy-yes, Leah-yes, Heikki-yes, Matt-yes

Warrant Article 2023 Continued Board Discussion:

●Leah stated that the board had been thinking about the proposed Use Table amendments and she felt it would be best to suggest postponing the proposed amendment until the Zoning Amendment Committee can work on clarifying the language. She said the committee should conduct public input meetings to gather feedback and suggestions from the public.

Amy moved and Ginny seconded the motion to postpone the Warrant Article on town meeting floor. Amy-yes, Ginny-yes, Matt-yes, Heikki-yes, Leah-yes.

●\$25 K for Visioning Session:

Leah said she would speak on the article on town meeting floor. She explained that she had received a letter from Susan Wasserman in support of the session, and explained how successful and well attended the last session had been.

●Accessory Apartments:

Laura Silber suggested changes to the proposed language for clarification purposes. She suggested adding language that refers the public to the Affordable Housing Guidelines on the town website.

A discussion ensued regarding the use and upkeep of accessory apartments, Ginny said she had understood that the apartments were to be inspected annually if rented to confirm the

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habitability. Laura said she wasn't sure that the units were inspected. Jeffrey DuBard IHT does have an annual affidavit that the property owner is required to update. Jane mentioned that she owns an accessory apartment and has never filled out an affidavit. Ginny mentioned that the annual inspection was to review the property for safety purposes such as the proper installation of fire extinguishers.

Heikki mentioned that he had recently learned there are over 200 job openings at the hospital and he asked if the MVC has been discussing the issue. Laura said the island has been working on the situation for several years. She said what needs to happen is that rentals need to be restricted as year round rentals. Doug Ruskin said not only does the island need year-round restrictions, it needs inventory. He urged that the focus fall on regulating short term rentals. Laura encouraged the Planning Board meet with the Affordable Housing Committee and the Select Board to work toward a solution, and perhaps work on allowing employee housing on commercial property. Ginny assured Laura that the zoning bylaws already allow it.

Amy volunteered to speak on the Accessory Apartment bylaw amendment on town meeting floor.

Kate Warner will speak on the pool bylaw amendment on town meeting floor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Rossi, Board Administrator.

Approved: Amy-yes, Ginny-yes, Leah-yes, Heikki-yes, Matt-yes.