

On February 15, 2022, on a motion by Stephen O'Neil, seconded by Joanne Crowley, the committee voted 5-0-1 (Maria Marasco abstained) to approve these minutes.

Town of Yarmouth

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING OF
February 8, 2022

The Yarmouth Community & Economic Development Committee held a regular Business Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. The meeting was conducted in the Yarmouth Town Hall Room A.

Committee Members Present: Stephen O'Neil, Joanne Crowley

Committee Members Present Via Zoom: Joe Manning, Ken Smith (arrived at 4:40pm)

Staff: Kyle Pedicini, Economic Development Coordinator; Karen Greene, Director of Community Development; Bob Whritenour, Town Administrator; Kathy Williams, Town Planner

Public: Maria Marasco, Tom Nickinello, Curt Sears

The meeting was opened by Stephen O'Neil at 4:35pm

YARMOUTH TOWN CLERK

'22FEB16PM4:12 REC

1. Tourism Revenue Preservation Fund

Bob Whritenour, Town Administrator, provided an update on the Tourism Fund related articles on the upcoming Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Whritenour explained that article #17 would create a wastewater infrastructure stabilization fund, article #18 would amend the Tourism Fund Special Legislation to exclude short term rental taxes from the tourism fund calculation (the funds would instead be put into the newly created wastewater stabilization fund, and article #19 would allocate Tourism Funds for the next fiscal year. It was explained that article #19 would also allocate tourism funds into specific line items (marketing, special events, etc.) as opposed to the past practice of allocating a lump-sum.

Committee members expressed concerns that this method would hinder the committee's flexibility when it comes to spending funds. Town staff noted that this change came about after receiving guidance from Town Counsel that the Tourism Fund article should be more specific regarding how the funds will be spent. It was also noted that the committee has not had to re-allocate funding between line items in the past, so this change will likely have no effect on spending flexibility. It was stated however that the Board of Selectmen may require their signature on Tourism contracts going forward, which would have an impact on flexibility. Committee members did express support for transparency provided by article #19 as it will further inform the public regarding how tourism funds are spent.

The committee also reviewed a proposed Tourism Fund allocation with specific budgets for each line item. Committee members discussed whether or not to request the additional \$50,000 in funds allowed for under the Special Legislation. The committee ultimately decided to request this amount due to the fact that the Tourism Fund will decrease in the future once short term rental taxes are exempt from its calculation. Town staff stated that they would revise the proposed

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Tourism Fund allocation with this additional request and return to the committee at the next meeting with a proposed allocation to be voted on.

Kyle Pedicini, Economic Development Coordinator, presented a physical improvement request form to the committee. It was explained that this form is very similar to the past physical improvement request form the committee sent out, but revised slightly to inquire about the possibility of matching funds for projects. The committee expressed support for the form and it being sent out to department heads to solicit proposals.

2. Discussion with Kathy Williams, Town Planner

Kathy Williams, Town Planner, presented an update to the Riverwalk Park and Boardwalk planning efforts. Ms. Williams explained that the town was working with its consultant on a design for the project. It was noted that the project planning is complicated by the fact that there are numerous environmental permitting requirements. The Drive-In site utilization committee has been meeting regularly to decide on design decisions such as the location of the restrooms (which will be moved closer to the site's entrance). One committee member asked about the timeline for construction of the project. Ms. Williams responded that the hope is to start construction in May 2023.

Ms. Williams also presented an update on a proposed short-term rental bylaw that is being considered by the Yarmouth Planning Board. It was explained that a short-term rental bylaw is needed in Yarmouth following case law that occurred in another town where short term rentals were ruled illegal due to the fact that there was nothing in the town's zoning bylaw on the topic. In order to prevent something similar happening in Yarmouth and to preserve short-term rental that provide much needed tax revenue, the Yarmouth Planning Board has created a draft short term rental bylaw. It was noted that this bylaw is intended as an initial bylaw that will be revised through further community input later this year. Committee members expressed support for the bylaw and thanks Ms. Williams for her presentations.

3. Future Meeting Dates/Schedules

The committee will meet on February 15th to discuss the town's next marketing contract.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:07pm