

Town of South Bethany
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2019 10:00 a.m.

PC Members Present: Linda Lewis, Scott Fischer, Joe Conway Tim Shaw, Gerry Masiello

PC Members Absent: none

Council Liaison: Dick Oliver, absent

Other Attendees: Bob Shields

Meeting called to order: 10:01 a.m. by Chairman Linda Lewes

1. Minutes from May 17, 2019 were adopted per motion by Joe Conway.
2. Installation and swearing in of new member, Gerald Masiello.

Old Business:

3. Discussion of lighting inventory and next steps.

Scott Fischer reviewed the Street Lighting Master Plan Status, July 19, 2019 package to the members and public so everyone was up to date.

The Background of the Plan – was developed in response to goals outlined in the Town’s 2016 Comprehensive Plan (CP), which included within Goal 3 “to maintain a safe public environment for the town residents and visitors” and Goal 5 “plan for and improve town lighting to meet modern standards for safe communities while meeting concerns for light pollution”.

A Vision Statement – was created to “provide a uniform and consistent lighting solution that attempts to balance cost effectiveness, aesthetics, environmental concerns and input from its property owners”.

The Scope – clearly defines what the Plan does/does not address (e.g., Route 1).

The Approach – describes a methodological approach to reaching conclusions to avoid perception of individual bias within the PC, and

Goals – Financial, Location, Type & Function, and Implementation.

The Progress to Date – created an initial working draft of the Lighting Master Plan, physical inventory of existing poles and fixtures, graphical representation of existing poles and fixtures on a formatted town map, initial assessment of the number of fixtures and new poles necessary to meet the plan’s objectives.

Mr. Fischer presented the formatted map with the collected data; the indication of poles, no lights, poles with light, solar and free-standing lights. It clearly shows the void of illumination throughout certain areas of town. The map shows location, including spacing, canal ends, cul-de-sacs, intersections, underground wiring with no poles above ground, and identified how many fixtures and how many new poles would be required, by possibly establishing a goal of every 200’, (every four 50-yard lots) illumination, with consideration.

The Next Proposed Steps – would be to determine with Delmarva Power the cost per fixture and per new pole for both one-time and annual operation and lease. Identifying logical phased implementation options, and to summarize potential financial requirements.

Joe Conway volunteered to write an introduction paragraph that describes the location consideration for paragraph 2 of the Working Document of the Street Lighting Master Plan, Version 2.

Scott Fischer suggested the PC prepare an initial preliminary presentation and recommendation to the Mayor and Town Council for the October 24, 2019 workshop meeting. Chairman Lewis suggested scheduling two additional meetings prior to the October 24th workshop. Lewis also suggested the PC should have the final recommendation before the December 13th Town Council meeting; having it prepared by November 30th. The PC agreed to meet August 29th, September 20th, October 24th and November 22nd at 10 a.m.

Old Business (additional):

The PC Progress Report for the 2016 Comprehensive Plan along with Town Manager's annual report was submitted in July was well received by the Office of State Planning Coordination. Chairman Lewis recommended the PC always update the report and have it prepared annually by April for the Town Manager to present annually in July.

New Business:

4. PC Liaison Dick Oliver will discuss Council's request for help with "Bikes at the Beach". Mr. Oliver was absent.

5. Discussion and next steps.

Chairman Lewis attended the Town Council July 12th meeting regarding the bike issue that has increased dramatically and the lack of bike racks; especially in Sandpiper Village and the north end of Ocean Drive. Safety is the biggest concern of bikes inferring with emergency vehicle access to streets, bikes protruding onto beach, bikes in the street and on other people's properties. Some of the suggestions discussed were: to ask property owners to place racks on their property, purchase an empty lot to create a bike park, place a bike rack near the bulletin board on York Road and Route 1, ask Del Dot for permission to install bike racks on the westbound Route 1 easement, place bike racks on the beach, establish a bike permit system, remove lifeguard parking to create bike parking and signage alerting people that no parking on private property or their bicycle will be removed at their expense. Council Sue Callaway stated if a bike park was a consideration, the CEC committee would volunteer to write for a grant.

Joe Conway mentioned that part of our Comprehensive Plan is to improve bicycle ability in the town. Mr. Conway also provided a document, "The New Bike Parking Guidebook Standard" for review.

The PC decided their first step is to develop a working document with principles and constraints, using the same format as the street lighting plan. Chairman Lewis suggested the PC provide a status on the bike plan, along with the preliminary on the Lighting Plan at the TC workshop meeting on October 24th. Tim Shaw volunteered to create a preliminary working document for the bike rack plan. Chairman Lewis will consolidate any edits and have the document ready for the August 29th meeting. Joe Conway was involved in a study group to provide Beach Access Improvement, which included biking. Joe Conway will provide this document to Tim Shaw.

6. Public Comment. Mr. Bob Shields, 43 Sea Side Drive, Sandpiper Village spoke about the concern of the bike issue and feels Sandpiper Village has taken a huge burden of bicycles illegally parked on two empty lots in their development.

7. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at noon.

Submitted: Janet Powell, Town Clerk