

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council**  
**Town of East Greenwich**  
**Special Meeting**  
**July 11, 2017 at 6:00 PM**  
**Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

(1) Interviews for Boards and Commissions

Town Council Present (2/5): S. Cienki, M. Schwager

6:00pm ~ Mark Shapiro for re-appointment to the Cove Management Commission

Mr. Shapiro commented that he would like to see the Commission have more authority at some point and that there is a need for a new harbormaster boat. He is interested in exploring the possibility of a new marina with parking and then looking at the plans presented by the Planning Board for a boardwalk. He added that ScallopTown is under-utilized and parking is a big issue. Discussion continued about the waterfront study, moving the transfer station and the former Harris Marina site.

6:15pm ~ Barry Golden for re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Review

Mr. Golden commented that the Board works well together and there are no major issues. The work load has been light and issues are easily resolved.

6:30pm ~ Richard Land for re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Review

Mr. Land commented that the lack of parking drives the need for zoning variances to accommodate restaurant businesses. As Chair, if variances are given related to valet service, he requires them to identify new spaces and deters them from parking in neighborhoods. The Board works well together and promotes compliance. He expressed an interest in the Probate Judge position if the current judge decided to step down. He has received high accolades from the staff in the Planning Department. Discussion followed on the hiring of the new Town Solicitors.

6:45pm ~ Melody Alger for re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Review

Ms. Alger would like to become a regular member. She praised Mr. Land for running the meetings so well and spoke about the cohesive, professional nature of the Board. No problematic issues were noted and votes are usually unanimous. Parking continues to be a concern during the review process.

7:00pm ~ Marc Gertsacov for re-appointment to the Board of Assessment Review

Mr. Gertsacov commented he is pleased to serve and has an interest in planning, zoning and conservation issues. Meetings have been light but could increase with the upcoming statistical revaluation. Solar energy was discussed in addition to the composition of the Board and the rules of appointment.

7:15pm ~ Bethany Warburton for re-appointment to the Cove Management Commission

Ms. Warburton commented that the Commission is gaining momentum and plans for the waterfront are forthcoming. Focus has shifted away from right of ways to the waterfront. She spoke highly of Ms. Anthony, Assistant Town Planner, who facilitates the meetings. She agreed to be the Chair and has enjoyed the experience thus far. They are working on recommendations for the feasibility study. The partnership with the Harbormaster is valuable and the Town boat needs to be replaced. She is looking into federal and state grant opportunities.

7:30pm ~ Ben Lupovitz for re-appointment to the Planning Board

Mr. Lupovitz welcomed the opportunity to be re-appointed and move up to a regular member. He commented that the Board excels in educating applicants about their authority, leadership is strong and the Board is well-balanced. The installation of the new Solicitor, the Chair and Vice Chair was discussed. He added that Ms. Bourbonnais is irreplaceable and always has the Town's best interest in hand. Discussion followed on utilizing the waterfront, despite its challenges, specifically the development of a municipal marina.

7:45pm ~ Susan Aitcheson for re-appointment to the Affordable Housing Commission

Ms. Aitcheson commented that purchasing property is an important issue and should be a priority. Clarifying what affordable housing is was discussed as well as the outreach to organizations throughout the community. She noted that new residents from neighboring towns feel threatened at the possibility of affordable housing near them. She views affordable housing as infrastructure. Discussion continued on allocating revenue to secure property and maintaining additional housing assets. Property on Division Road is on the radar. Members of the Commission have made house to house visits to help educate and ease residents. Vacancies need to be filled and their annual presentation to Council needs to be scheduled.

8:00pm ~ Elyse Pare for re-appointment to the Board of Assessment Review

Ms. Pare commented that there have been no major issues to date. The Board typically shares the same views and takes time to explain the reason for changes with residents. The re-appointment process was explained as well as vacancies on other boards. The timeline for revaluations and new tax bills was briefly discussed. She spoke about increasing the net assessments in Woonsocket as the City Tax Assessor by over \$1 million and increasing revenues by monitoring exemptions.

Submitted By:  
Leigh A. Carney, CMC  
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council