

Oak Bluffs
Community Development Council

Draft

Meeting #130

Minutes of 10.20.10

9am-Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

Terry Appenzellar, Renee Balter, Priscilla Sylvia, Nancy Phillips, Alison Shaw, James Westervelt (recorder)

Also in attendance:

OB Town Selectman Ron DiOrio, OB MVC Representative Commissioner Fred Hancock, FinCon members Mimi Davison and Steve Auerbach

Minutes:

Item: Comprehensive Parking Plan

The committee was introduced to the “new” OB MVC Commissioner Fred Hancock. His presence was requested so that the CDC could explain to him how OB has been working on a comprehensive parking plan for our downtown commercial area. It was hoped that Fred could then use and share this information with fellow commissioners. It was explained that our commercial center is small and cannot be expanded outward. Existing businesses can only expand upward, most likely requiring more parking. Vacant or change of use buildings would most likely require a “parking plan” by the MVC. There is strong sentiment that “parking” should not be **the** determining factor on a particular project. Parts of the comprehensive plan have already been adopted by the Byways / Roads Committee and the Town. Most of the other suggestions should be adopted this fall and winter. In adopting most of the suggestions of the plan the town will not be increasing parking where it doesn’t exist, but changing some parking areas from parallel parking to diagonal parking and publicizing these areas as “park and walk” parking areas. This part alone would account for a large increase in town parking spaces.

Also commented on was the enormous amount of foot traffic OB has everyday without the need for cars ie. day ferrys, occupied Inns, hotels and seasonal homes.

Fred did comment on the how the MVC tries to look at the whole picture and not each project as an isolated part of a town. The committee thanked Fred for coming and listening to us and he left at 9:40

Item: Miscellaneous

The committee then took up the topic brought up at the last BOS meeting consisting of revenue enhancement. With parking still on everyone’s mind this issue of parking enforcement would not only help maintain order but would bring in revenue (previous years brought in \$30,000).

The Fee Schedule compiled, reviewed and recommended for adoption by the town was again discussed. It was agreed that at least the Town Clerk’s fees should be increased as soon as possible and urge an increase of fees recommended by CDC at the annual Town Meeting. It was suggested that a better presentation would hopefully produce adoption at Town Meeting.

A general discussion followed on purchasing and bidding practices, union contracts and negotiations and citizen volunteers doing some of the work of understaffed departments.

Meeting was adjourned 10:33am

Next meeting #131 on 11.03.10 @ 9am

Town Hall meeting room

