

Hardwick Planning Commission
August 13, 2019
Hardwick Memorial Building
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Joyce Mandeville; Ken Davis; Jim Lewis; and Dave Gross, Chair

HPC members Absent: Diane Grenkow

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA); Shari Cornish, Select Board Member

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Joyce Mandeville moved to approve agenda with amendments. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

Joyce Mandeville moved to approve the July 30, 2019 minutes as written. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

After discussion about the earlier public hearing (6:30 pm on August 13, 2019); Jim Lewis made the motion to recommend and to send the proposed changes regarding Section 4.7 Residential Care and Group Homes and the zoning district boundary change at Tax Map 9, Lot 58.7 to the Hardwick Select Board for their consideration. Joyce Mandeville seconded the motion. All commission members were in favor. Kristen will convey the findings of the public hearing to the Select Board at their meeting on August 15, 2019 (*already accomplished – the Select Board public hearing will be held at 5:30 on Thursday, September 5, 2019*).

Shari Cornish introduced the newly created Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force which will include Shari and Wiz from the Select Board and the members of the Hardwick Planning Commission. The Select Board believes that this effort is critical for safety, traffic and Main Street business vitality. The focus will be on the Hardwick Village and on the center of East Hardwick. In particular, a solution for the intersection of Routes 14 and 15 (adjacent to the Village Diner parking area) is being sought. The safety of the Hardwick Village crosswalks is also in question after the recent pedestrian accident in a crosswalk.

The concept is to examine the safety of the crosswalks (are there too many crosswalks?), the truck parking/delivery aspect, the parking question, and other associated issues. Shari hopes to have a vision ready for examination and/or a town vote by Town Meeting Day in 2020.

Recently, speed bumps were added to the Village Diner parking area. The owner of the Diner, Lynn DeLaricheliere, has reported that they appear to be a success as they are reducing the number of speeding vehicles in the “cut-through.” New signs have been posted in the intersection, alerting drivers to the traffic flow approach. Other ideas include pedestrian crosswalk signs with the blinking light option (reportedly at a cost of \$2800 each) and new colors for the cross-walks (green?).

The subject of traffic cones in the crosswalks was reviewed. This approach has been utilized previously and was not considered to be effective as the cones were consistently damaged or hit by traffic and trucks.

A study of the downtown parking/safety and the infamous intersection was conducted in 2009. This report will be sent out to the Planning Commission.

The work of the Task Force is scheduled to begin at the next meeting on September 10, 2019.

The editing of the 2014 Town Plan continued with a review of the Appendix B – Implementation Options. After discussion, the Planning Commission agreed that the majority of the information has already been covered in the actual Town Plan. The motion was made by Ken Davis to forego the addition of Appendix B. This was seconded by Jim Lewis and all commission members were in agreement.

The next HPC meeting will be on September 10, 2019.

Joyce Mandeville made the motion to adjourn at 7:44 pm. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA