

Bridgewater Town Council
Community and Economic Development Committee Meeting minutes

November 3, 2021

Council Chambers

Opened meeting at 7:09

Committee members present: Mr. Colombotos, Mr. Chase and Mr. Wood.

Resolution R-FY22-001 – Acknowledgement of the Acceptance of Catch Basin Cleaning at Marilyn's Landing land Reclamation Project

- Acknowledgement required by the DEP so that they can proceed with the land reclamation project
- Motion to recommend by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mr. Colombotos; no discussion, unanimous by roll call vote

Ordinance D-FY22-013 – Discontinuance of the Abandoned Portion of Lakeside Drive

- There was consensus among the members that the town should receive compensation for abandonment of the asset.
- there was consensus among the membership that we are not prepared to vote on this measure tonight, as more information is needed
 - o Should the town seek compensation for abandonment its property rights?
 - o If we abandon the northern portion of the lot we don't lose any rights to the parking lot
 - o To what extent is any part of the road still being used
 - o Legal advice on how abandonment process proceed
 - o Motion to postpone consideration until our next meeting by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mr. Wood; no discussion; unanimous by roll call vote

Resolution R-FY22-003 – Clear Title to the Town Common (out of order)

- Passage will resolve that the Council would like the Town Manager to investigate the goal of attaining clear title to the Town Common
- Motion by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mr. Wood; no discussion, unanimous by roll call vote

Order O-FY22-019 – Eminent Domain Order of Taking for Summer Street Property (meeting notes for consideration of this order were taken by Mr. Chase and relayed to Mr. Colombotos after the fact).

- Mr. Colombotos recused himself to the Zoom meeting room at 7:58, as he is an abutter to the subject property
- Discussion expressing concern that the site could contain environmental hazards that the town would unwittingly assume legal responsibility for.
- Mr. Chase will write the Town Manager asking for a discussion of potential exposure at the next Council meeting. To wit: do we have adequate information about the potential for past releases from the underground tanks.

- Motion by Mr. Chase to recommend approval to the Council contingent on satisfactory answers to environmental concerns, seconded by Mr. Wood; no discussion; unanimous by roll call vote.

Public Comment:

Janet Hanson: Please make sure Mobil station doesn't contain hazardous materials. Why is the abandonment of Lakeside Drive being pursued now? The town shouldn't abandon title to the road without compensation.

Pat Neary: Lakeside Drive did go through to Pleasant Street until 24 went in. The town should not abandon the subject portion of Lakeside Drive.

Melissa Ramondetta: vis a vis Lakeside Drive, the committee engaged in no discussion of the larger context surrounding the abandonment of Lakeside Drive, i.e. the fact that the entire area around the lake has been designated an Area of Critical Concern. Any discussion of change of use of the area must describe impact upon the existing lake and neighborhood.

Bernice Morrissey: Claremont has been transparent in what its goals are, must appreciate that the entire area is within the Area of Critical Concern. Area is critical as a means of flood control.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mr. Wood; unanimous approval by roll call vote.