

Citywide Neighborhood Committee Meeting
November 15, 2016

Cliff Lazenby called the meeting to order, 7PM

Motion to approve minutes- Kathy Bergeron

Seconded by Paul Mannle, with amendment to typo of date.

Cliff asked for a recap of Ward 1 Community Outreach Forum from November 3 at New Franklin School

Kathy Bergeron presented a short recap

- Over 100 attendees
- Panel consisted of Peter Rice, John Bohenko, Jim Splaine, Jack Blalock, Jim Heinz and David Mara
- Many public works questions which Peter Rice and John Bohenko fielded, particularly on crosswalks and safety of students walking to New Franklin
- Questions and answers on enforcement of speed and texting while driving
- Questions on fire hydrants.
- Overall, it was a positive session, lots of compliments for Public Works.

John Wyckoff – The day after the forum, public works installed white barriers to make walking to NFS safer.

Jim Splaine – Thought it was a very good meeting, suggested a ½ hour of Q&A at the end of the meeting so people can ask one on one questions.

Cliff Introduced Rebecca Perkins, City Counselor and Nancy Colbert Puff, Deputy City Manager who are part of the city's housing committee.

Rebecca and Nancy presented work and findings of the Housing Committee:

Portsmouth needs more affordable housing to attract workers

Portsmouth currently has 2+ jobs for every resident.

Want to rezone some commercial areas to allow for workforce housing

Looking at particular areas, along Lafayette Road, Woodbury Avenue, Exit 7 off I-95, Mirona Road

Went over key housing findings: 55 percent of residents could not afford their homes if they were to purchase them now, went over a snap shot of rental prices, snap shot of home prices for homes sold and on the market, housing supports job growth, most people desire to live near work.

The housing group will present their findings and recommendations to the City Council on Monday, November 21.

Discussion of Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance, which is mandated from the state of NH, which allows attached ADU's, and the Garden Cottage Housing Ordinance, which would allow un attached dwelling units, all within zoning requirements.

Draft of the Zoning Ordinances is available on Plan Portsmouth website, on City of Portsmouth Website.

John Wyckoff: Does not think the ADU will make much of a difference, duplexes have usually been allowed.

Kathy Bergeron: Who will manage work force units?

Rebecca: Unsure at this time, developer or Housing Authority

General discussion on the targeted areas for zoning changes

Larry Cataldo: Where do you see Portsmouth in 5-7 years in regards to housing? What about Boarding Houses?

Rebecca: Not sure. Have not considered boarding houses at this time.

John W: Hotel rooms would be good workforce housing

Paul Mannle: Think ADU ordinance could have a big impact.

Christi: asked about land behind Commerce Way and who owns it, can it be developed as residential?

John W: Need to reopen discussion with Pease about residential development.

Jim Splaine: Excited about changes at Gosling Meadows, redevelopment is in the works.

Paul Mannle: Why can't surrounding communities contribute work force housing? Could be cheaper to develop.

Rebecca: We want the people here, not surrounding communities.

Cliff: Thanked Rebecca and Nancy.

Cliff: Working on next Outreach for Ward 2, end of January, waiting for confirmation of dates for use of the Middle School.

Cliff: Talked about changes to the bylaws to include Outreach Forums as meetings.

Cliff, made a motion to change bylaws

Christi: Talked about history of some poorly attended meetings, change would give us opportunity to go out into the community.

Paul: Should we change bylaws to specifically include forums?

Cliff: Disagrees, this gives us more flexibility.

Larry: Agrees, flexibility good.

Christi seconded

All in favor. Passed.

Neighborhood reports:

Larry Cataldo: Islington Creek had a meeting with the city about the proposed parking garage. Meeting well attended and answers were provided, or the city will work with residents on parking concerns, lighting, etc.

Discussion on liner buildings and what they are.

Cliff, made a motion to adjourn

Paul: Seconded

Meeting adjourned 8:40