

## **Town of North Yarmouth EDSC Minutes**

**Nov 15, 2021 6:30PM - 8:00PM**

### **EDSC Members Present:**

Kit Maloney  
Laurie Bachelder  
Alicia Dostilio  
Jason Perkins  
Kevin Robinson  
Rich Parenteau  
Byron Kern

### **EDSC Members Not Present:**

Ian Acker

### **Also Present:**

Select board member Paul Hodgetts  
Select board member David Reed  
North Yarmouth Residents  
Call to Order: 6:30  
Old Business:

### **Decision Making Process 6:35:**

Kit acknowledges the Town of North Yarmouth Policy Committee; we are asked to get agendas posted to town manager or designee no later than 48 hours before meeting (section 3G). Rich asked where one can find the rules, and Kit replied that these are on the website and that she will send out a copy to members after the meeting. Kit states minutes from October shall be approved at the next meeting as these were not ready for today's meeting. Moving forward, the committee will approve minutes at each meeting (as per Town of North Yarmouth Committee Policy Section 3H).

Kit also highlighted section 3 C5 which states that "No matters of decision shall take place electronically via email, landline, cell phone, or by social media."

Judy Potter, resident - asked why everything wasn't public and Kit explained that all committee decisions are made in public meetings but that for specific projects, creating an EDSC binder for example, there are times in-between meetings where members might meet to do some preliminary work on a project in-between meetings before bringing that work for discussion and decision at a public meeting.

Kit acknowledges there are a lot of different avenues to access different documents, so she would like to create a binder of the various documents to improve ease of access for members. Kit notes that the documents chosen for the binder will be documents that EDSC members are expected to familiarize themselves with and review. The intent is to have a foundation of understanding town policies and documents. Kit volunteered to spearhead this process and asked for help. Rich volunteered.

Kit stated the EDSC is not required to follow Robert's rules, but we do need to follow the town of North Yarmouth Policy Committee.

Kevin volunteered to spearhead this committee and help create by-laws. Jason volunteered to help with by-laws. Paul Hodgetts,

Select Board (SB) member and resident spoke to EDSC to comminute if by-laws are created, this needs to be approved by the SB.

Kit agreed.

#### **Charge to Define Rural Character 6:45**

Kit-sent out the document of responses to the question "What Does a Village Center in a Rural town look like to you?" and opens the conversation/reactions to members.

Kevin-This is difficult because there is really no way to define this as it is more emotion/feeling than an actual definition. We may need to move on and ask for a change of charge.

Byron-feels it depends on context.

Kevin-maybe it needs to be a more specific question-maybe around development.

Laurie agrees

Jason agrees-it's a "no win" sort of question. It is not as forward thinking as it could be. It was not a waste of time as this has provided context for the right question.

Kevin-we should bring to SB and ask for a new charge

Kit- maybe it is more evoking emotions than specific information. The comp plan refers to rural character 12 times and it is often a term used in the context of promoting the village center as the area for which to focus development, so as to maintain the "rural character" of the town at large.

Kevin-It seems like a term that was not used as intended.

Kit-maybe we need to check the pulse on the committee. Do we feel in agreement with the Comp Plans focus on development in the village center as a way to maintain "rural character"?

Kevin-the struggle is there are a lot of portions of the comprehensive plan that need to be addressed, so it is hard to answer the aforementioned question.

Kit-maybe helping re-evaluate "rural character" is the part of the plan to focus on changing, as a means to gather meaningful/measurable information from residents.

Kit volunteers to work with Kevin on the language to use for addressing the SB.

Kevin-boils down to figuring out what is responsible development.

Kit-We need to recommend the use of terms that have explicit and singular definitions.

Laurie-This is an overwhelming charge as it is hard to come up with something that is likely to be pleasing to most. Laurie asks if the document we put together asking folks the question given over to SB?

Kit-It has been.

Byron-Keep in mind that the Comp Plan was intended to be a vision, then the ordinances are going to be developed based on the vision-so the wording needs to be clear and not subjective.

#### **EDSC Facebook Page 7:00**

Kit-There is a document referring to FB pages for committees. The process of doing this involves asking SB for permission to have an EDSC Facebook (FB) page. We had decided we wanted to explore this as an option at our Sept meeting but we can decide tonight if we do want to go forward with a FB page. If we do want to do this we need to explain why and what our goal would be to SB

tomorrow night (11/16). Do people feel this is a good time for EDSC FB and what would the goal of this be?

Kevin-after speaking with Laurie about this, it seems like a very good idea as it provides a way for the public to follow the EDSC and present questions they may not have been able to express at a meeting.

Laurie-FB is a great tool, but it is also a platform for chaos. So putting policies in place will be important; members will have to be a resident, and this would be verifiable with settings.

-Members will have to adhere to the rules and have to be let into group.

-The page will have to be monitored.

Laurie states the page is a way to have open conversation, allowing the public to feel more comfortable speaking.

David Reed SB member and resident- asks if renters will be allowed as the way it is being presented, they would not be as settings

have been presented tonight. Laurie notes this as an area to address.

Kit-In terms of getting feedback from a wide variety of residents, surveys have historically led to the most engagement.

Laurie-the group can put the survey access on FB.

Kit-is the right moment to make the facebook page? Is it where we want to be placing our energy?

Kevin-It will be a starting point to open communication then critique as we go.

Kit-What would we start with?

Laurie-explaining who we are and what we are working on. As a resident it could make it easier to have a place to go, and Facebook is accessible to so many. We are here working for the residents. Facebook could be a good way to help the group not be pigeon holed.

Kevin- Suspicion is created by history. In meetings, residents don't often feel they can get their comments out. FB allows those comments to be heard.

Laurie-Gives residents a chance to read up on happenings and post questions more at their convenience.

Kit-So it is a place to post things that really are on the website, but would make these things more visible?

Byron-It makes sense to start with what is going on and slowly broach things that evoke argument.

Laurie-Think we (EDSC) needs our own space.

Jason-Have you thought about the mechanism to get more folks drawn to the page?

Laurie- the town page and various other community pages will connect and it will grow over time.

Jason- If we present it to the select board, we have to have a reason- I would say it is a mechanism to elicit feedback, but it would be good to also promote more engagement.

Byron- what is the plan for the presentation?

Laurie-I have this all prepared-we want our own space, promote transparency and involvement.

Kevin-I make a motion for Laurie to present this to the request for an EDSC FB page to the SB tomorrow.

Kit-before that, how are we determining who the moderator is/who would be responding to comments-this is a concern?

Laurie-I will do this, but if there is something controversial, I would like to bring it to others to get second opinions.

Kevin-I think we are not really thinking about responding to comments, but to take them into consideration.

Laurie-we will address comments here at EDSC meetings, but not in the posts.

Kit- okay, so it is good to be clear we are not engaging in conversations unless in a meeting.

Laurie, do you have other expectations

of members to help you with the page?

Laurie-If something has become hostile, I would need support from the committee members.

Jason- if something were to become hostile, then the consequences of this should be made clear ahead of time.

Kit-We could link the SB guidelines to the page.

Byron-If things get controversial, then comments could be turned off.

Rich- clarified Laurie's hopes for backup in tricky situations.

Kit- It would be good to leave comments on when we have meetings to evoke more conversation.

Draven Walker EA to Town Manager- In your roles as committee members if you don't want to get involved in something, you can

defer to Debbie to see if the comments adhere to the social media policy.

Jason- It will be good to say we welcome comments, but won't be replying.

Kevin- Made a motion for Laurie to present the request for a FB page to SB tomorrow

Kit-seconded. Byron voted in Ian's absence, motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business 7:31**

Kit-Do other subjects need space?

Jason-In regards to gaining a broader understanding of the rules and regulations for development could the committee have a broader discussion of what the rules and regulations are; this would be good knowledge when we present to potential business owners.

Kevin-we have discussed having a workshop to address this.

Kit- to Kevin-You were thinking about having the planning board (PB), SB and EDSC lead this?

Does it make sense to create a

sub-committee to create this? We want to clarify our intentions of having this workshop. It should be a time for us to learn, but also

allow the public to be present.

Kit asked if anyone volunteered to spearhead working to create this workshop. Kevin suggested

Kit, she agreed, asked Jason if he

would volunteer to help, Jason agreed.

### **Public Comments 7:36**

David Reed, SB member and resident- States he likes the conversation, and sees the group is coming together, to talk about important things.

Diane Morrison, resident-The planning board is doing a workshop this Thursday 630-8. This will be a training about the PB

responsibility to follow the ordinances and CP

-Have you thought about making the facebook page only live until the new Town Manager is hired as this could be something

they would like to influence?

-The workshop you have talked about tonight will help delineate who is responsible for what in terms of the EDSC/Planning

Board.

-The policy for FB should be in bullet points to ensure people read all of the information.

Laurie-It is bulleted and you cannot get into the page until you have read and acknowledged the expectations

Laurie-What is our supporting role to the planning board? Is it still to continue to collect information/thoughts and feelings of community members and bring it to the PB? Do we present to the PB what we find?

Kit-The PB is where new developments will be approved or not, and in the coming meetings EDSC will discuss their overarching

charge. We are more ambassadors and liaisons, working with residents and businesses on our primary charge of supporting NY's local economy.

Laurie-If someone is averse to something going in, do they come to PB or do they come to us?

Kevin-That is where the FB comes in for communication.

Kit- In the moment, if somewhere is averse to something going on, that is a PB issue, and they'll want to notify the PB of their

concern. But it is something EDSC should be aware of so the concern can be taken into account for future consideration of recommendations.

Byron-Ultimately we don't make decisions.

David Reed, SB member, resident-The feedback gathered by the EDSC is good to help us adjust policies.

Kevin-We just pass on the information and get it to the right people.

Diane Morrison, resident-Also invites Ryan Keith (Code Enforcement officer) to the workshop.

Kit-agrees

**Adjournment-7:48**

Minutes submitted by Alicia Dostilio