



Williamsburg Planning Board

141 Main Street, P.O. Box 447

Haydenville, Massachusetts 01039-0447

Phone: (413) 268-8400

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Minutes for meeting on **December 19, 2022**

Member	Present	Not Present	Member	Present	Not Present
Tariq Abu-Jaber	X		Jean O'Neil	X	
Amy Bisbee	X		Eric Schmitt	X [R]	
Chris Flory	X		Steve Smith	X	
Holly Hendricks	X				
Other attendees: [R] = Remote					

At 7:04 pm Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

1. Vote on prior minutes

Meeting Date	Comments	Motion to Accept	Motion to Accept as Amended	Second	Vote Yea - Nay
12/5/2022	Meeting minutes		Abu-Jaber	Hendricks	7-0

2. Report from Jean on a seminar she recently attended: Restoring Trust: Working to eradicate housing insecurity and expand access to credit. Issues raised include housing affordability, availability, home maintenance. One notable takeaway was the disparity in loan denials, interest rates between wealthy and poor. Related to this theme, recent news about an Affordable Housing Trust in Southampton was also noted.
3. Schmitt reviewed some "digital planning board archive" activity he's undertaken. In summary, about 800 pages of historical planning board meeting minutes paper documents have been scanned and compiled into digital form. The documents cover 1985 through 2021. Schmitt will continue to scan and organize planning board minutes and other documents.



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4. Comprehensive plan discussion. Chair Smith met with the Board of Selectmen and reported that feedback was encouraging. Emergency transportation plans were touched on as a specific to be incorporated. The Planning Board was encouraged to proceed with the visioning work. Smith reviewed the Community Planning Grant Program, which will award \$2.5 million in \$50-\$100k grants. Smith also touched on a second program, Rural and Small Town Development, which may be relevant to comprehensive planning. The concept of housing production plans seems to be relevant to both programs. Board to spend time in January on securing DLTA funding. Chair Smith to speak with PVPC regarding scoping their available time. Visioning and community input, survey approaches discussed.
5. Chair Smith facilitated a vigorous discussion regarding the shape and scope of the comprehensive plan. Board members exchanged views in an effort to prepare for the visioning phase of the plan, and lay groundwork for building consensus.

The next meetings are planned for January 9th, and January 23rd.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Schmitt