



Williamsburg Planning Board

141 Main Street, P.O. Box 447

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Minutes
for meeting on
Sep 11, 2018
Approved

Members:	present	not present		present	not present
Robert Barker	x		Jean O'Neil	x	
Steve Snow	x		Amy Bisbee	x	
Steve Smith		x			
Chris Flory	x				
Others present: Eric Schmitt, Charlene Nardi, Town Administrator; Bill Sayre, Select Board; Gerry Mann, Zoning Board of Appeals; Osa Flory, Louis Hasbrouck, Building Inspector; Denise Wickland, Police Chief; Helen Symons and Donna Gibson, Board of Health					

Chairman Robert Barker called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

1. Nardi explained the reason for the meeting of representatives from town committees and boards on the topic of Airbnbs, now to be known as short-term rentals (STRs). She asked how STRs are affecting our town, whether our bylaws adequately address them, and if we should look at bylaw changes.
2. Barker then spoke, reviewing a two-page point sheet prepared by Barker and Flory (attached). It is suggested that the Planning Board would have five objectives in addressing the issue: allow STRs in owner-occupied homes, require registration with the town, set public safety regulations and inspections, set guidelines to minimize negative impacts, and keep it simple.
3. Currently there have been complaints from at least three locations in town, primarily dealing with noise and disruptions including traffic or parking but also sanitation. Comments from attendees include the thought from Hasbrouck that definition of STRs within zoning and regulatory context is difficult. Mann suggested that owners who live elsewhere are a large problem. Barker suggested that removing advertisements from the various web pages such as Airbnbs would help in some control. Nardi said she was not interested in a full-scale attempt to find STR situations, but we should be able to enforce a problem. She could see doing some online research once, sending a letter to the business outlining requirements such as registration or licensing, doing some public education, and making sure our expectations are clear. Fixing issues with any particular STR would remain complaint-driven. Wickland agreed that a problem should be identified, then passed to the police or other relevant enforcement office for action.
4. Sayre said he thought that PB's willingness to address STRs was good and he asked the PB to continue.
5. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean O'Neil