

WISCASSET ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES, AUGUST 10, 2020

Present: Chris Juntura, Jackie Lowell, Chair Karl Olson, Deb Pooler and Jason Putnam

Absent: Al Cohen

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2020

Deb Pooler moved to approve the minutes as written. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Downtown Parking

Mary Ellen Barnes and Terry Heller were present for the discussion. A memo dated June 24, 2019 from James Kochin was the basis of the assignment by the select board to the ORC to work on parking. Barnes said the Friends of Wiscasset Village had worked with the former Police Chief on parking issues. She will send a map of Bath as an example of a parking plan. She also said the Waterfront Committee and the Comprehensive Plan Committee should be involved in the planning. Jason Putnam said parking for tenants who live above the stores on Main Street will have to be considered, as overnight parking is limited. It was decided that a count of the spaces would be necessary as a first step, and a walk was scheduled for August 24 at 5 p.m. Committee members will meet at Sarah's.

4. Solar Farms

The sample solar ordinances were briefly discussed. The possibility of obtaining approval for a solar ordinance before approval of the two applications from firms who have approached the town was slim. The basis of the fee and clean-up costs were discussed. Further research will be done, and sample ordinances will be sent to committee members.

5. Abandoned Mobile Homes

Deb Pooler said she had not found much information on abandoned mobile homes and asked why the committee was considering only mobile homes, not all abandoned homes.

6. Illegal Junkyards

Karl Olson will contact Bruce Mullins regarding his request to the committee to look into illegal junkyards, whether he meant automobile junkyards or ill-kept properties.

7. Business License Process

It was also unclear exactly what the CEO needed regarding business licenses. The application for a business license has approval space for police, fire, ceo, etc. It was suggested that perhaps the Wastewater Treatment Plant should also be included in the approvals. Chris Juntura said there needs to be clarification of the forms, whether they are to be signed before or after the application to the Planning Board. Olson said the Site Plan Review application requires that the various departments sign off on the application.

8. Limiting hours of tasting rooms

This subject was brought up at a Selectmen's meeting by the owner of the Woods motel who worried that patrons of the planned tasting room next door would disturb her guests if the closing time were too late in the evening. It was decided this was not the responsibility of the Ordinance Review Committee or the Planning Board. The operating hours for the planned tasting room, according to the State, are 5 a.m. to 1:15 a.m. (2:15 on New Year's Day and St. Patrick's Day).

9. Other Business

It was decided to ask the Code Enforcement Officer to attend an ORC meeting to clarify his requests and improve communication with the ORC.

10. Adjournment

Jason Putnam moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.