

Community Planning Meeting Minutes

Draft Minutes of October 21, 2020 Meeting (Zoom)

(Sent note via email to committee members - November 18, 2020)

Member Attendance: Jennifer Borders, Ron Meick, John Schefflen, Grace Ressler, Mark Wood.
Visitors: Debbie Ricard, Marianne Cinaglia.

September Minutes: Reviewed and approved.

Gardeners Financial Report - (Garden at the Buzz Ware Community Center). Report from the Gardeners will likely be presented at the December meeting.

Ordinance 15 - Vacant Dwelling Ordinance was discussed. John S. reported on his review of the document and noted certain inconsistencies in the ordinance and its application. Ron M. noted that when he previously served on CPC they consulted the City of Wilmington which had a public safety element in their Vacant Property Ordinance. John S. suggested that we keep our ordinance but might re-craft it to include provisions for due process which would determine if a “citation” or fine could be enforced fully and might for example lead to trial. John noted that we might re-visit how we determine if a property is vacant and that the number of days per year of non-occupancy is relevant. Jennifer shared the screen with us and we were able to review the vacant housing ordinance. Further to this discussion the properties with unoccupied/vacant apartments were mentioned and the question was raised of the purpose of the penalties if the apartments are in an otherwise occupied dwelling. Mark W. suggested that we might include a clarification that at least 50% of a multi-unit dwelling should be occupied. It was mentioned that in order to initiate a revision in the Ordinance, information would have to be reviewed in 3 Town Assemblies.

The Sub-Committee Guidance document: Jennifer B. referred to the reading of the document at the September Town Assembly. A revision of the document will be presented to address long-term planning. Our next meeting on November 18th will have an Open Meeting for anyone who would like to attend CPC to comment on the Guidance Document. The notice of the public meeting will be in The Page and in an email blast to the town. It was noted that after the Open Comment session, the sub-committee would produce another draft of the document and that would be presented at Town Assembly in January 2021.

Jennifer B. commented on the status of the **Arden Website** and that perhaps additional volunteers might join in as well as be brought in on other projects. It was noted that the previous group had been in touch with the G.I.C. and had held a spot on their calendar for our proposed re-vamp. Grace R. mentioned that we had not met as a group but would try to find out if G.I.C. had cleared their calendar and were not acknowledging any previous items due to the Covid crisis shut down.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Ressler, Secretary