

**Minutes of the meeting Thursday, February 15, 2018
Of the Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee
Of the RTM**

With 12 of 15 members present, constituting a quorum, the regular meeting of the Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee was called to order by Chair Joanne Hennessy on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:00PM in Town Hall.

Present:

Chair Joanne Hennessy, Vice-Chair Amy Barsanti, Secretary Amy Chickles, Liz Bacon, Carolyn Bayne, Tim Goertel, Ted Hawkins, Fred Hebert, Caroline Luz, Petr Marousek, Arpita Muchal, Rolf Obin

Absent:

Joan Davis, Elise Feldman, Morgan Whittier

1. Review Planning & Zoning Department Quarterly Report (Report Attached)

A written report of the Planning and Zoning Department was emailed to the Committee in advance and is attached to these minutes. Chair Hennessy gave a brief overview of the report, which provides information on what the P&Z Department has done in the last quarter (permits, metrics, etc.)

2. Update on the three building projects

Chair Hennessy gave a brief overview on the three main commercial building projects currently underway in Darien:

- a. The Federal Realty Project in Noroton Heights – first phase will be construction of a new Walgreens, starting soon. This project will be in multiple phases
- b. The Palmers Project in Noroton Heights – first phase will be tearing down the current commercial buildings, possibly starting in June
- c. The Corbin Drive project in downtown Darien – the project has been scaled back from the original proposal and currently has no confirmed start date

More information about these and other projects can be found on the Town of Darien's website under the Planning and Zoning Commission at www.darienct.gov/pzc.

3. Update on the Blight Ordinance

Liz Bacon gave a brief explanation and update on the current implementation of the Blight ordinance. There is a rolling list, currently with about 16 properties on it, each of which has been inspected and reviewed by the Blight Review Board. A new Blight Officer, Nicholas Jossem, has been appointed to continue this work.

4. Update on Ox Ridge

Chair Hennessy gave an update on the current discussion about usage of the Ox Ridge property. The Board of Selectman recently approved a broad usage of the property, which was then sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning and Zoning

Commission did not vote on it at their recent meeting and plans to hold a public hearing, probably in April, to gather citizen input. Discussion was held by the Committee members on possible usage.

Public Comments: Two people present, Patrick Keane and Jenny Schwartz, gave public comments about the Ox Ridge property.

5. Other Business

A question was raised regarding traffic projects taking place at both the intersection of West Avenue and Noroton Avenue, and the length of Noroton Avenue from West Avenue to Hecker Avenue. This will be updated at the next meeting.

Chair Hennessy asked the Committee to give input regarding the possibility of the private Tokeneke Club moving their four paddle courts from Ox Ridge to Weed Beach. The Committee gave a number of comments.

There being no other business, Vice-Chair Barsanti moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Chickles, Clerk

Draft: 2/20/18

Approved by Committee on: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Note: The meeting was recorded by Darien Government Access Television and can be accessed at www.darienct.gov/TV79.

Note: The next meeting of the Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee will be Monday, March 12 at 7:00PM.