

LUC Meeting Minutes 3/27/2023

DEPT./BOARD: Land Use Committee

DATE: Monday, March 27, 2023

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Town Hall Annex & Virtual

Members in attendance: Member(s) in attendance: Patricia O'Brien, Dave Webb, David Woodilla, Zi Wang, Mimi Bix-Hylan, Mike Proulx, Gary Mercier. Monte Pearson was present remotely.

Recording Clerk Tom Prior was also in attendance.

Assistant Conservation Administrator Eileen Coleman and Mark Snickler were present remotely.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM

1. Chair's Comments:

a. Chair Dave Webb addressed concerns from past presenters about their ability to communicate effectively with the Committee. Presenters need to be allowed to finish their presentations before members ask questions.

b. He led a discussion about the differences between a public meeting subject to Open Meeting Law and subcommittee meetings. He is awaiting a response from TOB on whether Subcommittee meetings need Minutes.

2. There was a discussion about offering the general public time at any official TOB meetings, especially at LUC meetings. Mr. Webb suggested that the LUC not explicitly allow public participation.

MOTION- To continue to allow public participation at Land Use Committee meetings. Seconded by Mr. Mercier. The Motion passed with a vote of 8-0-1, with Mr. Webb abstaining.

MOTION- To eliminate the hybrid meeting option from LUC meetings. Seconded by David Woodilla. The Motion failed by a vote of 4-5-0. [No roll call was recorded.]

3. Sustainability Issues

a. Assistant Conservation Administrator Eileen Coleman was present remotely to discuss the LUC's sustainability subcommittee's work on a Climate Action Plan. She suggested that the LUC support Conservation's sustainability plan for which they are applying for a state grant. She

invited the committee members to view the sustainability action plans for the towns of Concord, and Beverly + Salem.

b. Mr. Pearson updated the LUC on the Burlington community electrical aggregation plan and asked whether the plan included a quota for the energy to be supplied by renewable resources. There was a discussion on energy costs for the official TOB municipal electricity supply.

c. Ms. O'Brien gave an update on the work of the bylaw subcommittee. They think a new LUC Bylaw will be ready for next January TM.

4. Mr. Webb reminded the LUC that he has been Chair for nearly two years and suggested an election for Chair and Co-chair in the next couple of months. No members expressed interest in running for chair of the LUC.

5. Mr. Webb suggested having Land Use Committee Liaisons for certain other government entities in town. They would attend or be aware of the routine meetings of these groups and report on relevant information and actions to the LUC.

Suggested Liaisons: Planning Board, Select Board, DPW, Conservation Commission, Strategic Planning Initiatives, Housing Partnership.

Mr. Mercier - DPW

Ms. Wang - Conservation Commission

Mr. Webb - Planning Board

Ms. O'Brien - Select Board

6. Eversource is proposing a new substation in town. Ms. Wang went to a meeting with the company and explained to LUC their basic proposal to build it off of Winn Street 300' feet away from the nearest neighbor. Burlington has one substation now that is near capacity and within 5-10 years the town power supply could be disrupted. Eversource owns the 8 acres where they want to put the new station. Mr. Woodilla discussed possibly changing the location for the substation away from a neighborhood to mitigate noise disturbance. No action by the LUC was deemed necessary but Ms. Wang will keep the LUC informed.

7. Mr. Webb reported on 3 town plans for which he is an advisor:

a. The Mall Road Corridor rezoning concept plan led by the Economic Development Office.

b. The Blanchard/Wheeler Corridor Vision Plan led by the Planning Board. The PB received a state grant to produce a concept plan.

c. A Complete Streets Blanchard Road state grant led by the DPW to add sidewalks along Blanchard to join with Oracle's sidewalk and go from S. Bedford St. to just beyond Muller Road.

8. Approval of Minutes

MOTION- To approve the Minutes from the LUC meeting of Jan.17, 2023. The Motion passed with a vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION- To approve the Minutes from the LUC meeting of Feb. 27, 2023. The Motion passed with a vote of 9-0-0.

9. Next meeting date was set for Wednesday April 26, 2023.

MOTION- To adjourn the meeting- The Motion passed with a vote of 9-0-0.
The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Prior, Recording Clerk