

St. Michaels Planning Commission

St. Michaels Town Office

300 Mill Street

Virtual Session

January 4, 2022 - 1:00 P.M.

Present: Planning Commission Chairman Jefferson Knapp and Commission Members Cynthia Allen, Chris Thomas and John Novak, Zoning Officer Kym Kudla, and members of the public. Member Helen Herman was absent.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Knapp called the Planning Commission's remote regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

II. Minutes

- December 21, 2021

Chairman Knapp said he had no comments or changes to the minutes. Member Thomas made the motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2021 as presented. Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion, which then passed on a voice vote of 4-0 in favor.

III. Election of Officers

Chairman Knapp called for nominations for Chairman. Member Thomas nominated Jeff Knapp to continue as Chairman. Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion and the members voted 3-0 in favor, with Chairman Knapp recusing himself. Chairman Knapp then called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Member Thomas nominated Helen Herman for Vice-Chairman. Member Allen seconded it and the members voted 4-0 in favor.

IV. Items for Discussion

- Tents as permanent structures

Chairman Knapp confirmed that the members had received copies of Peter Johnston's revisions to the Code from the last meeting's discussion. The members were satisfied that Mr. Johnston had incorporated all of their suggestions for language on tents as temporary structures. After a discussion of some length, including public comments, the members agreed to forward the proposed changes to the Commissioners with their recommendations.

Chairman Knapp then called for any additional public comment. Carol Parlett of S. Talbot Street reminded members that longer term tents were allowed when Covid-19 to help restaurants and other businesses maintain customer distance, provide takeout options, etc. so they could stay in business. Ms. Parlett added that Covid-19 was still an issue. In addition, Ms. Parlett said that temporary tents were allowed for special events, such as Wine Fest, and required a permit approved by the Commissioners.

Chairman Knapp proposed that the Planning Commission forward its recommendations that included Mr. Johnston's changes to the Commissioners for their consideration. Chairman Knapp

then made the motion to forward the code changes as written on to the Commissioners. Member Chris Thomas seconded it and the members voted 4-0 in favor.

- Trash Service

Ms. Kudla said she had just sent the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding trash to the Commissioners for review.

- Grant Opportunities

Ms. Kudla said she was still working on a report to the Commissioners on grant opportunities. Member Allen said she would forward information that she and Carol Parlett had received on grants.

V. Announcements from Staff

Chairman Knapp said the Commissioners may ask the Planning Commission to address noise and light pollution in Town at future meetings. He said he had no other items for today.

Ms. Kudla said the next Planning Commission would be January 18th and she highlighted upcoming agenda items for their meetings.

VI Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Minutes approved by 5-0 vote in favor on 18th day of January, 2022.

Jefferson Knapp, Chairman