



Planning & Development Standing Committee
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
REMOTE MEETING
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Val Gilman; Vice Chair, Councilor Jen Holmgren; Councilor Barry Pett

Other Councilors Present: Councilor Jamie O’Hara

Also Present: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; Assistant to CAO, Chris Sicuranza; Planning Director, Gregg Cademartori; Assistant City Clerk, Grace Poirier; Clerk of Committees, Sherry Karvelas

*This meeting was conducted remotely through ZOOM
All votes conducted by ROLL CALL*

Meeting called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Councilor Gilman announced that the meeting was being recorded by video and audio in accordance with state open meeting law. Consistent with the Governor's orders, suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law and banning gatherings of more than 63 people, the meeting would be conducted by remote participation. The public may not physically attend the meeting but every effort would be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real time. Persons wishing to do so were invited to view the meeting via the information that was on the posting. If calling on a phone, press *9 to request to speak. If watching on a computer a device, there is a raise hand button that can be tapped or pressed to request to speak. Either option can be used to be recognized to speak.

Councilor Gilman announced the names of the P&D Committee members in attendance (Councilors Holmgren, Pett and herself) and City staff who were attending via Zoom.

- 1. Request from the St. Peter’s Fiesta Committee for the use of St. Peter’s Park on June 25-27, 2021 (Cont. from 2/3/2021)(To be withdrawn)*

Summary of Discussion: Councilors Holmgren, Pett and Gilman thanked the St. Peter’s Fiesta Committee for their hard work and dedication to the City in making this important event possible each year and recognized the hard decisions made by the Committee due to the pandemic. **Mayor Theken** thanked the St. Peter’s Fiesta Committee for their hard work and reminded the public to support the fundraising efforts by the fiesta committee as events during the fiesta are funded by donations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the withdrawal of the request from the St. Peter’s Fiesta Committee for the use of St. Peter’s Park on June 25-27, 2021

Councilor O’Hara joined the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

2. Memorandum from the Planning Director requesting a Conservation Restriction from the Essex County Greenbelt Association for 109R Leonard Street

Summary of Discussion: Planning Director, Gregg Cademartori shared his screen (slides on file) to show a map of the parcel of land now known as 109R Leonard Street that was purchased by the Essex County Greenbelt Association. After purchase, he stated a portion of the property was divided out in partnership with the Mount Adnah Cemetery Company where the cemetery would have use of the parcel of land with expansion of the cemetery (shown on map).

Chris LaPointe, Director of Land Conservation at Essex County Greenbelt, stated Essex County Greenbelt Association was seeking a Conservation Restriction to finalize the original project structure where in 2017 the Essex County Greenbelt Association partnered with the Mount Adnah Cemetery to fundraise to purchase the piece of land now known as 109R Leonard Street for \$650,000.

Councilor Pett asked if there were any specific plans as to the use of the land. **Mr. LaPointe** stated the parcel of land was 3¼ acres with a very simple trail system that connected Leonard Street into the cemetery. He stated working in partnership with the City there was a walking spot to move pedestrians away from the blind corner of Leonard Street, with the rest of the parcel being left in its natural condition. **Councilor Gilman** expanded upon the shortcut path that was created in partnership with the City for bikers, skateboarders and walkers to keep them safe from the blind corner of Leonard Street. **Councilor Gilman** asked about the specific piece of land that would be used by the cemetery. **Mr. LaPointe** stated a 0.9 acre parcel would be conveyed to the cemetery and in return the Essex County Greenbelt Association would take back a Conservation Restriction that could be used only for future cemetery expansion and not development in any other way which, he stated, was consistent with the fundraising efforts and the public messaging when the project started back in 2017.

Councilors Holmgren, Pett and Gilman and Mayor Theken expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the Planning Director and Essex County Greenbelt Association.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Holmgren, seconded by Councilor Pett, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that City Council approve the foregoing Conservation Restriction from Mount Adnah Cemetery Company to Essex County Greenbelt Association, Inc., as being in the public interest, pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Law

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Pett, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Submitted by Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees

Documents submitted at the meeting: None.

Meeting Recording: <http://gloucester-ma.gov/1097/Past-Remote-Public-Meetings>