

Planning & Development Standing Committee
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Harbormaster’s Conference Room, 19 Harbor Loop
And via Zoom
-Minutes-

Present (in person): Chair, Councilor Jason Grow; Vice Chair, Councilor Val Gilman; Councilor Tracy O’Neil

Also Present (in person): Clerk of Committees, Sherry White

Applicants: Brent “Ringo” Tarr for Concerts on the Boulevard

This meeting was conducted in person and remotely through ZOOM

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Grow announced: “If you are calling in on a phone, you can press Star 9 to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or a device, there is a raised hand button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options to be recognized to speak.”

Councilor Grow announced the names of the P&D Committee members in attendance (Councilor Gilman, Councilor O’Neil and himself), and City staff who were attending both in-person and remotely.

Matters were taken out of order; minutes reflect the order in which matters were taken.

1. Special Event Application: Request for Street Closures for the Concerts on the Boulevard on 7/3/23 with a rain date of 7/8/23, and 9/2/23 with a rain date of 9/4/23

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor Grow** stated that this event has been vetted and approved by the Special Events Advisory Committee and that the applicant is before P&D seeking a road closure for the Concerts on the Boulevard on July 3 and September 2, 2023.

Mr. Brent “Ringo” Tarr explained that the Concerts on the Boulevard have become increasingly popular and the crowd spills out onto the street, which is a safety issue. The police officer in charge determines when/if a road closure is needed, he explained, as has been done in previous years. For clarification, **Councilor Grow** stated that the closure is from Western Avenue from Centennial Avenue to Middle Street. **Mr. Tarr** stated that the closure generally happens on the inbound side.

MOTION: **On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve the road closure of Western Avenue, from Centennial Avenue to Middle Street, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m., in order for the Gloucester Fund to hold a free concert on Stacy Boulevard in the vicinity of the Blynman Bridge on Monday, July 3, 2023, with a rain date of Saturday, July 8, 2023, on the condition that the Gloucester Fund obtains all necessary approvals and to ensure that all required documentation is timely filed with the appropriate City departments. Road closures are at the discretion of the Police Department. Failure to comply with any conditions precedent may result in revocation of Council approval. This event is covered under the City of Gloucester’s liability insurance policy as a city-sponsored event.**

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor O'Neil, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve the road closure of Western Avenue, from Centennial Avenue to Middle Street, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. until 10:15 p.m., in order for the Gloucester Fund to hold a free concert on Stacy Boulevard in the vicinity of the Blynman Bridge on Saturday, September 2, 2023, with a rain date of Monday, September 4, 2023, on the condition that the Gloucester Fund obtains all necessary approvals and to ensure that all required documentation is timely filed with the appropriate City departments. Road closures are at the discretion of the Police Department. Failure to comply with any conditions precedent may result in revocation of Council approval. This event is covered under the City of Gloucester's liability insurance policy as a city-sponsored event.

2. Special Event Application: Request for Street Closures for the Gloucester Block Parties on 7/15/23, 8/12/23 and 9/1/23

Summary of Discussion: The applicant was not in attendance. As this is an annual event that has been vetted and approved by the Special Events Advisory Committee, the P&D Committee voted on the matter.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor O'Neil, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve the road closure of Main Street, from Duncan Street to Washington Street, in order for the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce to hold the Downtown Block Party Series on Saturday, July 15, 2023; Saturday, August 12, 2023; and Friday, September 1, 2023 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (road to be closed between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.) with the following conditions:

1. No vendor/merchant set ups on the sidewalk blocking entrance ways to retail or residential units, hydrants, crosswalks, or handicap ramps.
2. All vendor set ups in the street are to allow for no less than a 10 foot unobstructed, drivable area along the entire route - slightly wider at the curve at 85 Main Street to maintain adequate access for emergency vehicles. Failure to provide a 10-foot unobstructed margin of drivable area may necessitate the removal or relocation of the vendor/merchant at the discretion of the Fire Department, the Police Department, or the Block Party Committee.
3. The organizers shall allow the Fire Department drive-through access with the fire engine at the convenience of the Fire Department.
4. Any restaurant/merchant set up of tables and chairs, tents, or area enclosures should extend into the street no further than the lines painted on the street for vehicular parking.
5. That all of the side streets – Short, Porter, Center, and Hancock Streets – shall not be blocked by vendors, food establishments, tables, chairs, enclosures, equipment, or vehicles, so emergency vehicles may enter and exit Main Street as needed.
6. Vendor/merchants shall be responsible for their own trash removal.
7. Signs indicating the location of comfort stations shall be the responsibility of the Block Party Committee.
8. Plumbing Codes and regulations shall be adhered to regarding use of restaurant bathroom facilities.
9. Special lighting and electrical requirements necessitate approval of the Inspector of Buildings and the Electrical Inspector.
10. The closure of the street at the intersection of Main and Short, Porter, Center, and Hancock Streets must be by means of sawhorses or the like, as directed by the Gloucester Police Department.
11. It is the responsibility of the Block Party Committee to procure any other necessary Federal, State, and local permits and approvals associated with this event.

12. That the Committee makes reasonable notification to all residents and merchants along the route that will be affected by the closure.
 13. Restaurants or vendors wishing to serve food outside must notify the Board of Health 7 (seven) days in advance for approval and must obtain any necessary approval of the Block Party Committee.
 14. Conditions or permitting requirements imposed by the Gloucester Licensing Board shall also apply and shall become incorporated herein as to the outdoor/sidewalk service of food and alcohol.
 15. All other applicable laws, City ordinances, and/or regulations are in full force including Ordinances regarding blocking of sidewalks. The Police Department will enforce these requirements in the interest of public safety.
 16. The Block Party Committee shall also adhere to any requirements expressed by the Special Event Advisory Committee including that:
 - (a) That a letter from the office of the Mayor be provided assuring that the event is covered under the City of Gloucester Liability Insurance, and
 - (b) That this approval is based on the Gloucester Block Party Street Plan on file in the City Clerk's office.
3. SCP2023-005: Modifications of SCP2020-004: Folly Point Road #1, Map 146, Lot 28, GZO Sec. 3.1.6(b) "Building Height in excess of 35 Feet" to increase height by 3'-2" in the R-20 district

Summary of Discussion: As Attorney Joel Favazza was not in attendance, this matter was continued until the May 3, 2023 P&D Committee meeting. The Public Hearing has been advertised (on April 10 and April 17, 2023) for the April 25, 2023 City Council meeting. As there will not be a Committee Recommendation for the April 25, 2023, Public Hearing, Councilor Gilman stated that the Public Hearing will be opened and continued.

Councilor O'Neil asked why the agenda states the height increase is 3'-2" but the draft committee recommendation shows the height increase as 4'-9". Councilor Grow stated that Attorney Favazza had explained during this presentation at the previous meeting that the height, from the original plan, is starting from a lower base than previously designed. There was a brief discussion regarding the April 13, 2023, site visit. Councilor Grow stated that the abutting neighbors were notified (although none attended) about the site visit by Attorney Favazza and that applicants, Barry Goldman, Margaret Franklin, Attorney Favazza, Councilor Gilman, Councilor Memhard and himself were in attendance. Councilor O'Neil asked if the abutters are summer residents which is why none attended the site visit. Councilor Grow stated that there is no way to know and that he has not received any communications regarding the matter. Councilor Gilman added that at the previous site visit in 2020 there were abutters present and that it is the understanding of the owners that there is no opposition to the height. Councilor Gilman added that the property is a huge lot and that the building is in the middle of the property so it will not cause any shadowing to neighboring properties.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor O'Neil, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to continue SCP2023-005 to the May 3, 2023 P&D meeting.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor O'Neil, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Sherry White, Clerk of Committees

Documents submitted at the meeting: None.

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