

Richmond Planning Board Meeting  
Town Hall  
Minutes  
December 11, 2023

Members present: Richard Bell, Douglas Bruce (Chairman), John Hanson, Katherine Keenum

Others present: none

Mr. Bruce opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1. Minutes: Mr. Bruce called for comments on the minutes for the Planning Board meeting on November 13, 2023. There being none, he called for a motion to approve. Mr. Hanson so moved; Mr. Bell seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 4-0.
2. Recruitment: Mr. Bruce suggested tabling discussion of recruiting associate Planning Board members. House bill 3555 is currently under review: the bill would amend MGL Section 81A of Chapter 41, creating a mechanism for appointment of associate members.
3. Blight: Mr. Hanson pointed out that a Town Bylaw partially addresses the issue of blight (4.B and 4.C). Mr. Bell noted that Zoning Bylaw 1.3.C. also partially addresses blight. With mention in each bylaw, it is unclear where the issue should be addressed. Mr. Bell shared minutes from the 6/14/2023 Board of Selectmen meeting (Town Administrator Updates: “Blighted Property Bylaw – Danielle reported that Beth does not believe that a new town bylaw should be enacted but that the Town should approach the AGL under the Neighborhood Renewal Act, which allows the taking of abandoned properties.”) Until or unless the BoS broaches blight with the Board, the Planning Board sees no role.
4. Updates:

The Town Administrator asked whether the Planning Board has considered addressing accessory dwelling units in the Zoning Bylaw. The Board will discuss at a later meeting.

The Town Administrator advised that the Board of Selectmen is revising the short-term rental bylaw. The BoS will ask the Planning Board to hold hearings with a goal of getting the amendment onto the warrant for the 2024 Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Bruce

Next scheduled meeting: January 8, 2024