



TOWN OF BELLINGHAM

10 MECHANIC STREET BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02019

Thursday, August 15, 2024

MBTA (Section 3A) Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

5:30 pm

Arcand Meeting Room

Subcommittee Members Present:

Elizabeth Berthelette, William F. O'Connell, Sahan Sahin and Jeffrey Scornavacca (remote)

Also Present:

Director of Planning & Engineering, Robert Lussier

The meeting for the MBTA (Section 3A) was opened at 5:30 pm.

The Subcommittee (MBTA 3A) was informed by the Director of Planning and Engineering, Rob Lussier, of an overview of the steps taken since the last meeting.

The following was accomplished:

- The draft language of the warrant article has been written. This document has been reviewed by Rob, internal staff, and Town Counsel.
- There has also been communication with the Consultant regarding some revisions to this document. Some of those revisions will be included. This will be placed as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Warrant Dates:

The Subcommittee was informed about the important dates regarding the warrant. The warrant is opening on August 19, 2024, and is closing on September 20, 2024. The warrant will be posted on October 4, 2024. The town meeting is planned for November 20, 2024. The warrant article will need to go to the Selectboard who then recommend it to the Planning Board. The procedure for this process has been outlined by Town Counsel.

Outreach Meeting:

There was discussion about having another outreach meeting in the Fall. The Subcommittee agreed that it is beneficial to have both a meeting during the day and also the night. A recommendation was made to have this meeting at the library. The suggested dates were October 10th and 17th.

Some of the other forms of outreach included the following: digital outreach, senior center newsletter, the Bellingham Bulletin. There are deadlines for some of the newsletters and bulletins so those dates will be explored. There was also a recommendation to have a flier created with important information. A press release was also suggested. The resident in the audience communicated that the deadline for Senior Center newsletter for October would be the second week in September. It was suggested to reach out to Dave Dunbar about writing a newsletter. All of the information provided could be placed on the town facebook page. A video could also be created and run on the ABMI cable channel.

The Subcommittee would like the consultant to provide color copies since the previous handouts which they provided were black and white.

The meeting was opened to the public. It was communicated that Coffee and Conversation was a good event to attend and provided helpful information relative to the mandate. The audience would like this another event such as this.

The Town Administrator communicated that he would like to see the Town of Bellingham comply with the law. The current designated areas would not significantly effect the town. There has been a lot of housing built in Bellingham over the last five years. The town would be at risk if this is not passed since we would lose out on grants.

A comment from the public noted that the police, library, seniors, schools, and fire department will lose out if this does not pass at town meeting.

The plan is to keep the dense housing in areas which are already dense. The town is taking advantage of what we already have for housing in town.

July 18, 2024:

On a motion made by William O'Connell, seconded by Jeff Scornavacca, the minutes from July 18, 2024, were approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Elizabeth Berthelette	aye
William F. O'Connell	aye
Sahan Sahin	aye
Jeffrey Scornavacca	aye

Next Meeting:

- September 5, 2024

Adjourn:

On a motion made by William O'Connell, seconded by Jeff Scornavacca, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland
Recording Secretary