

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES**

Date: December 14, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Zoom virtual meeting

As a result of Covid-19 and the closure of City Hall, this meeting was conducted virtually through an application called "Zoom".

Present: Eric Crook, Alan D'Aiello, Christopher Grant, Octavio Cunha, Michael Robinson (Chair), Michelle Rockwell, William Fazioli (Planning Director), Patrick Hanner (Staff), and Jim Moran (Staff)

This is an open meeting of the East Providence Planning Board and is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Raimondo's executive order 20-25 issued on April 15, 2020 and extended by executive order 20-46 on June 12, 2020 due to the current state of emergency in R.I. due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the Covid-19 virus, we have been advised and directed by the state to suspend public gatherings and as such the Governor's order suspends the requirements of the open meeting law to have all meetings in a publicly physical location. Further all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as adequate means of public access are afforded so the public can follow along.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

3. APPROVAL OF PLANING BOARD MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Cunha, seconded by Mr. D'Aiello, on a roll call vote the board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes of November 9, 2020.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 2021 Planning Board meeting dates

On a motion by Mr. Crook, seconded by Ms. Rockwell, on a roll call vote the board voted 6-0 to approve the Planning Board meeting dates for 2021.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

None

6. STAFF REPORT

A. Design Review Guidelines

Mr. Fazioli provided information on The Draft Design Review guidelines. Various members of the board openly discussed the information. The design guidelines will be presented to the Planning Board at a future meeting for adoption as a public hearing.

B. Proposed Main Street Overlay District

Mr. Fazioli gave some background on overlay districts. He would like to consider adopting more overlay districts as they tend to be more attractive for developers. Mr. Fazioli referred to the Taunton Avenue overlay district from 2016 and the success Taunton Avenue has had since. Mr. Hanner and Mr. Moran provided additional details on the Taunton Avenue overlay district.

C. Watchemoket Square Report

Mr. Fazioli provided an update on Watchemoket Square, The study is complete and a draft report has been completed by the consultant. A public engagement meeting will take place middle to end of January.

7. COMMUNICATION

None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2021.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. D'Aiello, seconded by Ms. Rockwell, on a roll call vote the board voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting

CC: Mayor Roberto DaSilva
City Council
Director of Public Works
City Engineer
City Solicitor
Fire Chief
Zoning Officer