

# West Barnstable Civic Association

## Meeting Minutes via Zoom

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

### I. Call to Order

Nancy Meagher, President called to order the regular meeting of the West Barnstable Civic Association at 7:05PM on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 via Zoom.

### II. Attendance

Nancy Meagher, Jon Britton, Andy Lee, Ed Jay, Dolores Schermer, Tony Lovell, Dan Dewey, Bob Stolte, Leslie Wallace, George Zoto, and Marissa Caney. Kris Clark was a guest.

### III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of meeting minutes from February 2, 2021 meeting.

Dolores Schermer motioned. Leslie Wallace seconded. Unanimous vote taken to approve.

### IV. Councilor's Report

Kris discussed the Sewer project. There will be three webinars available to residents. Kris has provided a link for Civic Association to share. The Town Manager held 3 webinars on Thursday, February 25 at 10am, 2pm and 7pm regarding the Town's Sewer Assessment Ordinance.

An overview of the sewer assessment ordinance is available at

<https://barnstablewaterresources.com/comprehensive-waste-water-managementplan/finance-funding/>

The full draft sewer assessment ordinance is available at

<https://town.barnstable.ma.us/InTheNews/2020-12-17%20INITIAL%20DRAFT%20Sewer%20Assessment%20Ordinance.pdf>

Citizen engagement forums on the Proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance will be held on Thursday, March 25 at 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, and 7:00 pm To participate via computer, use the following link for all three meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/92047771927> Webinar ID 920 4777 1927 or join by phone 888-475-4499 using the Webinar ID: 920 4777 1927. All meetings will also be live-streamed on Channel 18 and the Town of Barnstable Facebook page. All sessions will be recorded and posted to the Town of Barnstable website for later viewing:

<http://streaming85.townofbarnstable.us/CablecastPublicSite/show/9373?channel=1>

Tourism mini-grant deadline was March 1. It was sent out to the civic associations. It should go out again next January. Please be aware of this opportunity next year- for signage, etc. to support tourism in West Barnstable.

Kris has heard complaints about trash along the railroad tracks. This is not a TOB issue, so Kris and Councilor Starr wrote a letter to Julian Cyr, Steven Xiarhos, and Tim Whelan. Representative Xiarhos promptly contacted Mass DOT and we ultimately received a reply from Daniel Fielding of the Rail & Transit Division, Mass Coastal Railroad will begin the cleanup on Monday, March 1st and will continue until it's completed. Kris noted to the provider that she will address this issue at an upcoming Town Council Meetings.

Kris then discussed the COVID vaccine rollout and some of the challenges on the Cape.

Upcoming Town Council will have a fairly light agenda. Kris raised an issue regarding the use of a Consultant since the use of a consultant for a recent process produced work that was filled with errors. Kris wants to be sure that funds that are used are being used appropriately and producing quality work.

There is also a link to sign up for 24-hour advance email notifications about vaccine clinics opening in Barnstable County.

Upcoming on Thursday's (3-4-21) Town Council agenda.

- Appropriation of \$70,000 for Community Data and Visioning Consultant in support for the Local Comprehensive Plan update- public hearing
- Acceptance of an Institute of Museum and Library Services Cares Act grant in the amount of **\$3,430** from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners by and through the town to the Whelden Memorial Library (**May be acted upon**) (**Roll Call Majority**)

Kris raised the question: What do we envision for our local comprehensive plan (LCP)? George raised a question about the Open Space Plan and that without the plan we won't be able to access State funding. Kris noted we can still access the funding.

Kris noted that Town Council doesn't want to spend as much money on open space, but wants to focus on recreation and workforce housing.

Nancy suggested we send an e-blast to WB residents about the Local plan, and suggest residents read it. (Along with WB Civic Association members.)

George raised the issues that the LCP gets reviewed, and then it goes nowhere. Kris noted that the Town Council agenda has been fairly light this year.

Whelden Memorial Library received a CARES Act Grant in the amount of \$3000.

Kris can include a note about the WB scholarship in her next newsletter and include a deadline.

Kris noted she is a Council liaison to the Hyannis Main Street Historic Waterfront Commission. She received notice of a grant opportunity that is for a restaurant in a historic building. Some funding will be for operating costs and the remainder for building maintenance. Kris proposed nominating The Dolphin restaurant in Barnstable Village.

Fire District will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

There is an opening for Water Commissioner.

## V. **Officer Reports**

### **Treasurer – Bob Stolte**

More new memberships to report! We also had several new donations to the GoFundMe for the scholarship fund. We are up to \$2500 for the scholarship account. A good month for income. Expenses are GoFundMe and Paypal fees plus \$50 for the Mercy Otis Warren award.

Bob noted that \$200 for Scholarship and \$15 membership fee that wasn't transferred at end of February, so will appear on next report.

Ed Jay motioned. Delores Schermer seconded. Unanimous vote taken to approve the report.

### **Corresponding Secretary – Andy Lee**

Nothing to report at present. It was noted that GoFundMe donors receive an automatic Thank You message from the system. No need to send a follow up note.

## **Membership – Jon Britton**

We now have 50 members. There are some renewals from prior members. At our high point, we had 140 members. Discussion of membership and how we can get new members. Group discussed methods to attract more members. Membership push through March 31 via various newsletters, signs at Post Office and Bank, and word of mouth through Civic Association members and others.

Dan Dewey noted the number of young families living in the village who we should get involved.

Discussion of new Family payment tier. \$25 for household.

Dan Dewey motioned. Leslie Wallace seconded. Unanimous vote taken to approve.

## **VI. Old Business**

- a) Scholarship Committee Update. Spread the word about the GoFundMe link.

The scholarship has been posted. Currently, we still do not have any applicants. We are hoping to have a few applicants by the deadline.

Sue has been very proactive with promoting the scholarship at the high school, in the Barnstable Patriot, and at the Post Office.

- b) Event Schedule for 2021

Event Schedule has been posted to the Website.

- c) Earth Day Cleanup

Tony reported that the Earth Day Cleanup will be scheduled for Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be signs posted in the Village to advertise the event, and yard signs will go up 10 days beforehand to more broadly publicize the event for residents.

Discussion of whether to broaden the scope of the cleanup day to include small beautifying tasks (planting flowers, mulching, etc) in addition to trash pickup. This may draw a few more participants.

## **New Business**

- a) *Cornerstone* publication date (Traditionally, May, August, November) Nancy discussed publishing a *Cornerstone* before May meeting. Nancy will get started on this.
- b) Village Festival Discussion. Committee will meet in early April to make a decision. Kris noted that festival is held on Town property, so they make the final decision.
- c) May 18<sup>th</sup> General Membership. Civic Association will invite Mark Ells for the May 18<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting. Kris suggested an update on the Sandy Neck erosion project, as well.

Meeting location TBD. Group discussed holding it outside weather permitting.

## **VII. Public Comment**

No public comments at this meeting.

**IX: Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 7:00 PM ~ Board Meeting Zoom  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:00 PM ~ Board Meeting Zoom  
Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 7:00 PM ~ General Membership Meeting

**X: Adjourn**

Ed Stolte motioned. Andy Way seconded. Unanimous vote taken to adjourn at 8:17pm.

Minutes submitted by: Marissa Caney, Director