

WAREHAM REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES



October 26, 2023
9 am, Room 27, Town Hall
54 Marion Road, Wareham, MA 02571

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:05 AM by Chair Butler

Members present: Dan Butler, Judith Whiteside, Ken Buckland, Derek Sullivan

Members absent: Ron Besse

RESIDENT COMMENTS: None

AUTHORITY BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Jared Fredrickson presented a PowerPoint summarizing and outlining his accomplishments in the 4 months of his internship with the WRA:
 - Local Business Outreach, especially regarding Downtown, the Train Station...
 - Tremont Dam, including the Dam Removal Preliminary Design Services Application Form
 - Researching Air Rights
 - Engaging in the Coastal Facilities Feasibility Study
 - Sorting and filing WRA paperwork
 - Preparing responses to FOIA
 - Offsite work included touring Tremont Dam, Merchants Way, properties of interest to the Conservation Committee, and 59 Main Street (Warren's Harborside)
2. Discussion regarding the expending up to \$20,000 in stipends to extend the WRA internship program through this winter and the spring of 2024. **MOTION:** made by Ms. Whiteside, Mr. Buckland seconded, to expend up to \$20,000 to extend the internship program through the spring of 2024. Motion passed. **VOTE 4-0-0 (Unanimous)**
3. Regarding the fishing pier, kayak launch etc., along the river side, the firms of Tighe & Bond, along with Halvorsen, have been chosen in response to the RFP

for design work. Contract is being created. A steering committee of approximately 5-8 people residents will be created to help shape project planning.
NO VOTE NECESSARY

4. Members reviewed the progress of:
 - a. Work in Downtown Wareham, which includes putting the URP on hold, while looking for grant funding to accomplish the MEPA review;
 - b. Onset Village where private investment is evident (Bebo's) as well as the Town's investment in and upgrade of the Greggerman Bandshell, Hynes Field Parking lot, the Pier, and the Park;
 - c. Cranberry Hi-way (East Wareham Corridor) where the rebuilding of Rtes 6 & 28 by the Commonwealth is almost finished, private investment noted (Town Tap and Tavern, Reign Carwash) and Water Wizz where a site plan review will drive upgrades. The application for a One-Stop grant was denied, and Mr. Buckland will ask for an interview to review reasons. The old Ocean State Complex continues to be an eyesore. The corridor is actually very narrow, bounded on one side by railroad, and on other by water and bogs.
 - d. Industrial Parks: there is no new industrial development on the horizon, an application for a One Stop grant to improve the access of the Kendrick Road Industrial Park was denied. Mr. Buckland will ask for review. The Kendrick Park has had substantial recent investment in the Stone Path Malt facility, as well as the crumpet factory.
5. Members discussed the desire to have a cohesive plan to 'clean up the dumpsters on Merchants Way, to enhance the visual attractiveness of the area. Members expressed a hope for continued maintenance of the rail tracks areas behind Merchants Way. Town efforts to work on maintenance have been curtailed due to the limited hours, as well as the need for flagmen, etc.

Mr. Butler noted the dates for the Veteran's Day Parade, November 11th, supported by the WRA's purchase of pole banners, the Sip & Stroll tentatively scheduled for April 27th.

Members discussed the desirability to hold a second Showcase Wareham.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Mr. Buckland's reports were covered in discussions as above.

MEMBER COMMENTS/INITIATIVE:

Members initiatives were covered in discussions above.

CORRESPONDENCE: None


MINUTES: MOTION: Ms. Whiteside moved to accept the minutes of September 28, 2023, seconded by Mr. Buckland. Motion passed.

VOTE : 4-0-0 (Unanimous)

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION made by Ms. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to adjourn.
Motion passed. **VOTE 4-0-0 (Unanimous)**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM

Submitted by


Kenneth Buckland, Clerk of the WRA

Date Submitted to Town Clerk


11/16/2023

Documents used or referred to during the meeting:

1. PowerPoint presentation (Intern's report)
2. DRAFT WRA Action Planning Priorities – 2024-2028
3. Minutes of September 28, 2023