

## Minutes of the MBTA Subcommittee on Communication and Outreach

March 11, 2024

March 11, 2024            10:00 a.m.                    Hybrid and In-Person, Room 7, Town Hall

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Olney, Sandy Bodmer-Turner, Susan Philbrick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gar Morse

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tiffany Marletta, Communications Director, Greg Federspiel, Town Administrator

Call to Order:            The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

Feedback on Zoning 101 Public Forum: March 2, 2024:

- All positive feedback on content of forum and opportunity for engagement
- Explanation of current zoning by district was helpful
- Ms. Philbrick suggested that colors of districts on maps on handouts should match those used on slides during presentation.
- Residents suggested that Planning Board members further simplify zoning.
- Residents suggested additional forums for zoning changes and appreciated the Saturday morning time.

Observations from Don't Boston My CapeAnn PAC Meeting in Rockport

- Ms. Bodmer-Turner attended meeting
- Many attendees did not live in Rockport
- 50-60 people
- 7-10 representatives from PAC
- Presentations by Manchester Planning Board Member Delisio and by Private Attorney Michael Walsh, who represents a Rockport resident who would like others to join him in suing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to invalidate the MBTA Communities Act.
- A few Manchester residents who were unfamiliar with the Law.

Observations from Don't Boston My CapeAnn PAC Meetings in Gloucester and Manchester

- Ms. Philbrick attended both meetings
- Several representatives of PAC
- Presentations by Ms. Delisio, Atty. Walsh and, in Gloucester, a former Gloucester Ward Representative who was not factual.
- Discussion of Home Rule and the private lawsuit by the Rockport resident.
- Current Gloucester officials in Gloucester audience and interrupted to provide accurate facts
- Audience concerns included parking, school population, MBTA's reliability, 40B, traffic, "undemocratic."
- Presenters suggested that penalty for noncompliance was negligible "change in your couch cushions."

Mr. Olney suggested another Public Forum in April.

Ms. Marletta led a discussion of updates to the quarterly newsletter and the FAQs. All edits will go to Ms. Marletta.

Ms. Bodmer-Turner discussed the next Question of the Week. She will separate FAQ no. 10 into two topics. Comments to Ms. Marletta by the end of the week.

Ms. Marletta suggested a question on Home Rule. Mr. Federspiel noted the recent article on Home Rule in the Gloucester Times that presented an accurate representation of the concept.

Ms. Philbrick suggested a new letter from the Select Board to the State to request Guideline changes that might benefit Manchester. Ms. Bodmer-Turner recommended a definition change that would include two-family residences. Ms. Philbrick suggested dispensation on acreage required as worsening coastal flooding diminishes "developable" land.

Mr. Federspiel recommended that the full Task Force should vote before including information regarding the Milton litigation, Home Rule, and/or the Gordon College negotiations on the Town's MBTA Task Force webpage.

Next meeting: March 25, 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Ms. Bodmer-Turner moved to adjourn and Mr. Olney seconded with the motion passing unanimously.