

Provincetown Finance Committee Minutes
May 6, 2016, 10:30 am
Judge Welsh Room, Provincetown Town Hall

Members Present: Mark Hatch, Louise Venden, Mark Bjorstrom, Mark Del Franco, Duane Steele and Scott Valentino

Excused Absent: Stan Sikorski

Others Present: Finance Director Dan Hoort

Meeting called to order at 10:32 a.m.

Member Statements:

Mark D congratulated Louise Venden on her well run election campaign.

Rik Ahlberg of the Provincetown Bicycle Committee and Provincetown365 presented a request from the Bicycle Committee for a \$2,500 reserve fund transfer to install additional bicycle racks in Town at Pearl Street and Court Street locations. The locations have been approved by the Board of Selectmen during their traffic hearing. The Bicycle Committee has \$2,562 committed to the additional racks. The total cost is \$5,062.

The Committee asked about the feasibility of the locations and expressed their concerns that the blocks may block access to Town landings.

Rik indicated that they are going to try them at these locations and if there are issues they may be relocated.

Louise asked how they were going to let people know where the racks are located.

Rik responded that the Committee is working on several initiatives to help visitors know the location.

Mark B asked about the timeframe.

Rik responded that the goal was by the end of the month, but the weather may push it to June.

Mark D asked about requesting funding from Community Preservation.

Rik indicated that it was planned for the future for Phases II and III which are both expected to cost \$12,000 each.

Duane moved that the Finance Committee approve a reserve fund transfer of \$2,500 to the Bicycle Committee for additional bicycle racks. 2nd by Mark B Motion approved 6-0-0

Mark H spoke to the Committee regarding sending the Board of Selectmen a letter of the Finance Committee concerns for the future.

The Committee briefly discussed the need to include the Pier and their finances in that letter.

Mark H said the Pier finances need to be simple and easy to read by taxpayers.

Louise agreed that their operating budget should be easier to understand.

Duane said the income that comes through the Pier should be more than enough to support the Pier and their maintenance. There aren't a lot of maintenance issues that can't be handled through their budget.

Louise mentioned that she's been requesting an analysis of our assets so we can have an asset management program. We need to understand what we have and how we can use them.

Mark B mentioned that this may need to be on the list of initiatives for the Finance Committee to look at.

Louise spoke to the need for economic development and how we might fund a shared work space program in Town.

Mark H spoke of a conversation he had regarding keeping Provincetown year-round. The discussion also included the diminishing supply of rooms in Town as rentals.

Louise said it speaks to something else, the tourism budget and the marketing budget.

Tony mentioned that there are fewer and fewer affordable room rentals in Town and we are shutting out the younger demographic.

Louise said we are more of a real estate generated economy than a tourism economy if you look at the dollars generated by each.

Mark B suggested we should list the initiatives we may want to work on in the next eight months and from that may come what we want to include in the letter to the Selectmen.

The Committee listed various initiatives:

- Housing and the housing trust
- Clearly lay out the status of housing, who works on what, what do we have, etc.
- Growth management and water and sewer issues, how does it all fit together?
- Provincetown 2020 and Provincetown 365, Committee needs to understand their function
- Airport

Louise said we and the community need to understand growth management and does it achieve the results we want.

Mark H mentioned that we need think of growth management as a carrot, not as a stick. But, if someone is granted growth management gallons on the premise that they will be open year-round and they do not keep that commitment there should be consequences.

Mark B said it comes back to the fact that they need a place to live.

Mark H is going to work on the list and send it out to the Committee and request feedback.

The Committee moved to approve the following minutes:

January 26, 2015	Motion by Louise, 2nd by Mark H	motion approved 6-0-0
February 9, 2015	Motion by Louise, 2nd by Mark H	motion approved 6-0-0
February 19, 2015	Motion by Louise, 2nd by Mark H	motion approved 6-0-0
February 23, 2015	Motion by Mark D, 2nd by Mark H	motion approved 6-0-0
March 27, 2015	Motion by Duane, 2nd by Louise	motion approved 6-0-0

Mark pointed out that the \$500,000 for the housing trust was passed at the ballot and the bill authorizing the trust is ready to be voted on the Assembly.

The Committee set the dates for future meetings, all of which will start at 10:30am. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month in June, July, August and September.

Jun 1, 2016

Jul 6, 2016

Aug 3, 2016

Sep 7, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 am