

MINUTES OF THE JOINT LONG RANGE PLANNING/LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING 1-3-2022

The meeting was called for 7 pm on Zoom. Present were Dedun Ingram, Chair; Tom Collins, Kathy Flaxman, Sybil Freedman, Jay Kelly, Tandra Leonard, Eric Murtagh, Joe Rubin, Steve Seidel, Stuart Sessions, David Valenstein; and Ellen Cornelius Ericson and Irene Lane, Council liaisons.

Chair Dedun Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Stuart Sessions moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting as circulated. The motion passed.

Dedun provided updates on recent County initiatives. The County Council and Planning Board are not moving as fast as had been anticipated. The new Council president seems to have slowed things down.

Thrive 2050: In December, the County Council held two listening sessions on the PHED version of Thrive. So far there is nothing further on their calendar for Thrive. Irene noted that she and Mayor Barney Rush will be meeting with some County Council members in upcoming weeks to discuss the Town's concerns about Thrive. Dedun reported that she worked with a group which compiled a list of concerns about Thrive and edited the current version of Thrive and delivered it to County Council members. Irene noted that she had read it and found it very helpful.

Attainable Housing Initiative: Planning held a community meeting on December 13. At the Planning Board's next work session, a recap of the agreed upon elements for the Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) was presented. Language for the ZTA, though expected, was not presented. Planning staff said that they would be back with that on January 6 but Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson said that there was no rush and suggested researching similar projects in other areas. The Attainable Housing Initiative is not currently showing on the agenda for the January 6 meeting. Given other items to be considered including Thrive, the Silver Spring Master Plan, the County budget, then the primary election, it is not clear when the AHI might be considered by the County Council.

The Committee discussed what the Committee should do to keep Town residents updated on Thrive and AHI. There has been information in every weekly Town update, but this may not be necessary if nothing is happening. The Committee recommended pulling the updates until something new happens. The risk is that residents may think things are settled if we don't have the weekly posts.

The Committee discussed what we can do while AHI is stalled and decided that we should do research to see how things have played out in other communities that have upzoned. Joe pointed to Culver City, California which he thinks is very similar to our community and has gone from single-family zoning to affordable-housing-type zoning. He thinks that it is a great model and a vibrant, diverse community BUT there is nothing affordable there. They allow

ADUs and some are larger than the original house. Dedun asked about the pace of change over time -- is it accelerating?

For the February meeting, Dedun will try to put together a list of sources/communities to research.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7.