

Town Council and Planning Board Workshop

Vacation Rental Regulatory Approaches

Meeting location: Zoom meeting platform. The workshop was recorded and is available on Town Hall Streams

Time: Started at 4:00 PM and ended at 5:30 PM

Attendance: Councilors Dobbs, Hochman, Friedmann, Coston, Minutolo, Cough and Goldthwait and Planning Board members St. Germain, Eleftheriou, Cough, Fitzpatrick, and Brooks. Also in attendance were staff members Fuller, Chamberlain, Gagnon and Manager Knight.

Agenda:

1. VR-I
2. Cap requirement in Ch. 190
3. Providing for all registered VR to continue operating as is
4. Maintaining the 4 nights minimum for VR-II
5. Other

Document: The document reviewed was titled 01. VR Regulatory Approaches, April 2, 2020.

Notes

Planner Gagnon presented the agenda topics and questions were asked. The description of VR-I will need to be tightened up. Councilor Cough expressed concerns with the characterization of vacation rental being described as somewhat of a hybrid between commercial and residential. Manager Knight is to follow up with Assessor Weed to find out if vacation rentals are assessed as a residential use or a commercial use. Planning Board members St. Germain and Brooks were of the opinion that it is not a good time to pursue moving ahead with these amendments during the pandemic while there was a sense from the rest of the attendees who spoke that town staff should continue working on this matter. As the Town Office has been closed and staff has lost about 6 weeks of productive work on this matter due to Covid-19, the Planning Director will submit a draft schedule of deadlines to the Manager, for review, to make the November 2020 ballot. Furthermore, the planner will schedule a Zoom information session.

Prepared by: Michele Gagnon, Planning Director
May 6, 2020