Planning Board of Georgetown Maine

Minutes of the Meeting of 2, October 2024

**Present**:

Chairman: Bob Trabona

Members: Pam Gunnell, (alternate), Lisa Sabatine, Phil Mason, Terry Taylor, Bob Aldredge

CEO: Mike Field CEO

Selectmen Representative: Jonathan Collins

Public: Linda Tharp Tsao (remote)

Sharon Trabona (remote)

**Call to order**:

1. Chairman Bob Trabona called the meeting to order at 7:00

**Applications:**

1. Merwick Cottage, LLC (U14/39) Applicant: Linda Tharp Tsao. Application for the replacement of dock damaged by storms located at 36 Lewis Road. Linda explained they have a dock with ramp and float which were badly damaged in the storms during 2023-24. The float was entirely destroyed and the peer damaged. They’d like to replace with one and the same. The Merwick Cottage, LLC is owned by the trust. Ms. Tharp Tsao indicated her father, Marshall Tharp is the owner. She provided documentation that Merwick Cottage, LLC is tied to the family trust. She is the authorized representative. Terry motioned the application is complete. Phil seconded. After no additional discussion the motion passed 5-0. Terry motioned to approve the application for U14/39 and grant permit number 24-23. Phil second. After no additional discussion the motion passed 5-0.

**Minutes**:

Terry motioned to approve the minutes of the 9/18/2024. Bob A seconded. After no additional discussion the minutes were approved 5-0.

**Old Business:**

1. Market Value update - There are no updates.

**New Business**:

1. Short term rental discussion - Tonight is to consider or not consider the Planning Board proceed with this issue. There is currently no authority granted by the Select Board for the Planning Board to proceed with this topic, but there has been a request for the Planning board to gather information and possibly make suggestions to the Select Board. Some issues that may need to be addressed include but are not limited to: What are the issues with STRs? How do they effect the town? What is the impact on the town for emergency calls? How many STRs do we have? Would a structure used as a STR be used as a year-round rental if STRs were no longer allowed in town? Impact on the Shellfish Warden, Harbor Master, animal control, town office staff, transfer station? We need to identify the problem - if there is a problem. We have just over a thousand dwellings (1042 homes) including 26 businesses in town. It was decided a representative of the Georgetown Affordable Housing Initiative (GAHI) committee will be invited to join the next Planning Board meeting to discuss this topic to see what their current and anticipated involvement will be.

**Public Comment**:

**Other**:

Terry motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50. Lisa seconded the motion. After no additional discussion the motion passed 5-0.

The Planning Board meets at the Town Office on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Other meetings are scheduled and announced, as circumstances require. Members of the public are welcome. A full audio recording is available upon request at the Town Office. The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be October 16, 2024 at 7pm.