

Town of Sandwich  
THE OLDEST TOWN ON CAPE COD



Planning Board

100 Route 6A  
Sandwich, MA 02563  
Phone: 508-833-8001  
Fax: 508-833-8006  
Email: [planning@sandwichmass.org](mailto:planning@sandwichmass.org)

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TOWN OF SANDWICH

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MINUTES  
March 7, 2023

**6:00 p.m.**

Sand Hill School Community Center, 16 Dewey Avenue, Sandwich, MA

**Present:** Jeffrey Picard, Chair via telephone; Jennifer Reisig, Vice Chair; Robert King, Melissa Dugan; and Philip Rodriguez

**Absent:** Mark Callahan and Paul Coteus

**Also Present:** Ralph Vitacco, Director, Planning & Development; and Maureen McCabe, Sr. Administrative Assistant

**Also Absent:** Sam Jensen, Assistant Town Engineer; and Leanne Drake, Town Planner

Ms. Reisig opens the meeting with the reading of the Opening Statement. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited. Mr. Vitacco adds that because Mr. Picard is participating remotely, all votes taken tonight will be by roll call vote.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. King motions to approve the minutes from the meeting held February 21, 2023, as written. Ms. Dugan seconds. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Submission of New Plans**

There are no new plans submitted.

**Old Business**

There is no Old Business to discuss.

**New Business**

There is no New Business to discuss.

**Deliberations**

- 5 Jones Lane – Special Permit – Bracken

The Board reviews and discusses the Special Permit for 5 Jones Lane. The Board unanimously approves, by roll call vote, the Special Permit. The Decision, Findings and Conditions are on file in the Planning & Development office.



## **Board Discussion**

- **Scenic Road Decision Discussion**

Mr. Picard explains that Ms. Drake put this summary together at his request. The purpose of the report is for Board members to have the same understanding of how decisions have been made since 2015. The guideline is 1 ½ trees per tree removed; the Board has discretion to ask for more or less trees than that. Ms. Reisig opens the matter up to the public for comment. The following person spoke:

- **Jeanne MacLaren, 156 Main Street**

Ms. MacLaren tells the Board that she is the Chair of the Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee. Ms. MacLaren says that the Committee tries to stay on top of Scenic Road Decisions made by the Planning Board. She requests a copy of the summary report as described by Mr. Picard.

A discussion takes place amongst Board members and Ms. MacLaren. Mr. King explains that, for the most part, applicants are required to replace each tree cut down with the value of 1 ½ new trees. In the instances where no conditions were set it was the Town of Sandwich removing the tree(s). Mr. Picard follows up by saying that this is partially correct. He elaborates on circumstances where replacement trees are not required as part of the Board's decision. The Tree Warden will offer his advice. Mr. Picard goes on to say that the Board is pretty consistent with how conditions are applied. Ms. Reisig says that the Board tries to be thorough and thoughtful in their decisions. Ms. MacLaren says that the only disappointment is when there is no request for 1 ½ trees. The conversation continues. Ms. MacLaren thanks the Board saying she didn't know how broad the discussion would be and she wanted to be privy to it.

## **Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated**

- There are no Other Matters to discuss.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. King motions to adjourn. Ms. Dugan seconds. Unanimously approved by roll call vote. The meeting adjourns at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen McCabe

Supporting Documents:

1. February 21, 2023 Draft Minutes (7 pages)
2. Scenic Road Decision Report 2015-2023, dated March 2, 2023 (1 page)