

## **OXFORD PLANNING COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES**

**APRIL 2, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Oxford Planning Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Norman Bell, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Oxford Community Services Building.

Other commission members in attendance were Bruce Beglin, Steve Mroczek, Lucy Garliauskas, and Cameron MacTavish. Also in attendance was Town Manager Cheryl Lewis and Town Planner Marilyn Williams.

The minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2024, were approved and accepted as distributed.

Manager Lewis reviewed with the members the Maryland Sustainable Community Program, explaining that this program is managed by the Department of Housing and Community Development along with MD Planning and is a requirement if the town wants to apply for any future grants. She stressed that the town will want to stay in the program for as long as they can and that the program is good for 4 or 5 years before the town will need to renew it. The town first applied in 2015, reapplied again in 2020, and will need to reapply once again in 2025. Manager Lewis explained the commission will need to review the current update so they will have an idea as to what is in it. In the past, the town looked at what they wanted to accomplish and what they did accomplish, and now will need to show what they want to accomplish in their new renewal request. In general, the Planning Commission supports sustainable communities, economic development, working waterfront, and walkability. Manager Lewis stated that as long as the commission does not remove those key elements, they will remain okay.

Discussion also took place with regard to the need to create a cohesiveness between the town's comprehensive plan and the MD Sustainable Community Program. In going over the upcoming renewal of the program, Mr. MacTavish suggested that the commission could list some of the accomplishments made that had previously been presented as goals, such as the revitalization of The Mews building. Not only has that building been stabilized but has also had a private owner come in and create more living spaces along with an operating business. Other accomplishments and future goals included looking at the number of commercial vacancies that are no longer vacancies, anything that was done 10 years ago that now needs help again, and economic support of structures that help with the local economy.

Mr. Bell asked where Oxford Market's mural would fit into the program. Manager Lewis suggested it be added to the program as it is something that is desirable in that it is a piece of art, part of the town's heritage, and draws in tourists. Ms. Garliauskas brought up charging stations. Manager Lewis commented that charging stations were installed in town because the State of MD had been pushing the installation of them to support tourism adding that the commission may want to add that into the program so as to maintain and possibly increase citizen and tourist access.

Other items to consider include marinas, such as the Oxford Yacht Agency, which opens up to the town and benefits the town. The commission can also identify in the plan that the town will promote MD Historic Trust grants.

Manager Lewis added that once the program renewal has been completed, along with the review of the town's comprehensive plan, the commission will need to go through their planning code and zoning.

Prior to adjourning, Chairman Bell asked a member of the audience if she had any questions. Katie Rice, part-time resident of Oxford, introduced herself and explained that she had just wanted to see how things were run and what was involved in obtaining a building permit.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Willoughby

Assistant Clerk