

From: Cherryfield Planning Board
To: Cherryfield Select Board

May 22, 2023

We are in receipt of your letter dated May 9, 2023 and are in complete agreement that the Land Use Ordinance and permit applications need to be thoroughly reviewed and updated. The Planning Board has brought this matter to the Select Board on many occasions over the years. The Planning Board has also attempted to work with the CEO to update the permit applications and improve the permit review process for at least the past 5-6 years with no success. The workshop with the CEO on May 3rd was the first time the CEO had agreed to attend a meeting after years of invites, and we, the Planning Board, were quite hopeful we could finally begin this work together.

Your letter states that the Select Board has received negative feedback from people concerning how the Historic District is viewed and that some people are concerned they will be approached by the Planning Board because their applications were incorrectly handled. The Planning Board has heard these same concerns only from people who reported that they were given this information by at least three different Select Board members and from one Planning Board member. The information given to them does not at all align with what the Planning Board has actually said or intended, and our conversations with these community members has alleviated their concerns. The Planning Board member who gave false information to a business owner was asked to resign and agreed to do so.

Attached to this letter is the workshop agenda that was provided to participants of the May 3 meeting. Also attached are the draft minutes of the April 19 Planning Board meeting outlining the Planning Board's preparation for the meeting. All of this information was provided to the Select Board at their April 25 meeting, when the Planning Board asked the Select Board for support in our efforts to work with the CEO to improve the permit application and review process.

The Planning Board will continue with their plans to thoroughly review and update the Land Use Ordinance, but we are concerned that an updated Land Use Ordinance means nothing without a clear and consistently applied review process, which requires improved communication and coordination between the Planning Board and CEO. We sincerely hope that the Select Board will recognize the benefit of Town committees and Boards working together to meet the goals of the community.

The Planning Board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and we welcome Select Board members to participate in upcoming workshops to review and improve the Land Use Ordinance and permit review process.

Signed, members of the Cherryfield Planning Board

Laurie Lee – Chair

Billie Jo Brooks

Kim Smith

Crystal Hitchings - Secretary