

**Town of Westwood
Islington Center Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2015
7:00 PM
Islington Community Center - 288 Washington Street**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Task Force Members Present:

Michael Walsh, Michael Jaillet, Trevor Laubenstein, George Hertz, Nancy Donahue, Mary Beth Persons, Kela Klosi, Helen Gordon, Trish Tucke, Albert Wisialko, Nora Loughnane, Abby McCabe, Tricia Perry, Nicole Banks, Danielle Sutton, Michael Reardon, Paul Sicard, Todd Korchin.

Members Absent: Rabih Shanshiry, Jack Patterson, Pam Dukeman

Introductions

The Task Force members introduced themselves and shared their interest in serving on the Task Force.

Discussion of Opportunities and Challenges

The group discussed what they liked and considered challenges for Islington. The positives were: the quaint village-feel, the area serves as a gateway to Westwood from Norwood, the architecture and historical buildings such as the Blue Hart Tavern and the library. Some areas for improvements were: pedestrian safety, landscaping, traffic, parking, historical preservation, open space and access, the East Street bridge, and opportunities for the town-owned properties.

Consideration of Mission Statement

The following draft mission statement was reviewed:

The Islington Center task Force will review and discuss the physical attributes and uses of privately-owned and municipally-owned properties in the vicinity of the Washington St./East St./School St. intersection, focusing on Washington Street between Fairview Street and Clapboardtree Street, on School Street between Washington Street and Pine Lane, and on East Street between Washington Street and the East Street Railroad Bridge. The Task Force will identify the most significant character-defining elements of Islington Center, consider obstacles and opportunities for improved pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular circulation, and encourage building, site, and infrastructure improvements appropriate to this area's unique village style of development. The Task Force will serve as an avenue for transparent and respectful discussions to encourage positive and pro-active redevelopment in the Islington area. The Task Force will make recommendations to the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen as either board considers decisions affecting Islington Center.

Public Comments:

One member of the public asked the group to consider all options when reviewing growth, and encouraged patience. Another member encouraged individual projects to adhere to the zoning laws. Another comment was added that the Islington area is part of a small town and not a city.

The next meeting will likely be the first week in December. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.