

MINUTES

Demolition Review Committee with Town Administrator
Meeting 01/5/23
Rye Town Hall

D. Choate called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Present were: David Choate, Elizabeth Sanborn, Frank Lagana, Jay Longtin (Alternate), J. Madden (Alternate), Matt Scruton, Kara Campbell, Chuck Marsden, Vince Bower, Pat Losik and Kim Reed.

Purpose: To brainstorm ideas with the relevant town departments to facilitate an early warning of a possible demolition of Rye's older properties.

Currently, the Demo Permit is the last to be issued but, by the time it gets to us, the applicant has already spent thousands of dollars on architects, etc., so the DRC doesn't have much sway with the owner to preserve their bldg. The DRC only has the power of persuasion. We are looking to the "point of entry"...whether it is the building department or planning department.

Also of concern were the code requirements to be upgraded if they exceed the value of the building not the land. D. Choate feels the value of the land almost always exceeds the building value in older properties in Rye. C. Marsden said there are FEMA Guidelines that set the requirements. J. Longtin will research and educate the DRC members as we were unaware of the Federal requirements. As C. Marsden pointed out, the higher authority trumps the lower - e.g., federal, state, then town. Also, flood plain requirements sometimes dictate. There are historical exceptions, but each one is reviewed separately.

General discussion:

1. The Zoning Board is not required if the building goes right to demolition.
2. Building permits once submitted go into a queue and that is, ideally, when the DRC wants a "heads up".
3. The DRC mission is to preserve the charm of the Town and to be a resource whether for preservation, salvage, or historical recording.
4. K. Reed reiterated that when early warning is possible, she or Kara will point the inquiry to contact us on the DRC. K. Reed also suggested that we write an article in the Town Annual Report, Town Newsletter, and the Town Website. J. Ireland is the contact person for all three.

J. Longtin moved to adjourn and J. Madden seconded the motion.
Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sanborn