

NOTES

Town Council Webinar Workshop on Vacation Rental (VR) May 11, 2021

Attending:

Town Council: Chair Jeff Dobbs, Vice-chair Matthew Hochman, and councilors Erin Cough, Gary Friedmann, Jill Goldthwait, Joseph Minutolo, and Valerie Peacock.

Staff: Manager Cornell Knight, Planning Director Michele Gagnon, and Code Enforcement Officer Angie Chamberlain.

Discussion: The workshop started at 5:35 PM.

Ms. Gagnon gave a brief overview of the Polco survey results. She said there were 459 respondents (an all-time record).

There were somewhere between 309 (verified) and 414 (self-reported) registered voters who responded to the survey. About 25% of the respondents said they had VR(s) versus 75% that did not.

Based on the responses from verified registered voters:

- 149 or 48% said that they strongly or somewhat supported the transfer of VR in the commercial areas compared to 160 or 52% that strongly or somewhat opposed it.
- 129 or 41% said that they strongly or somewhat supported the transfer of VR in the shoreland areas compared to 182 or 58% that strongly or somewhat opposed it.
- 123 or 39% said that they strongly or somewhat supported the transfer of VR in all other areas of

town compared to 187 or 60% that strongly or somewhat opposed it.

Ms. Gagnon then explained the transferability of registration definition. The proposed transfer language (location; ownership; change of ownership during term of registration; VR-1, VR-2 in commercial areas; and VR-2 in shoreland areas) was discussed.

Councilor Goldthwait asked that a text box be added to provide additional information to the reader regarding the language pertaining to “VR-1 registrations are non-transferable.” She noted that is because a new owner occupying the home as a primary residence could apply for a VR-1 registration at any time.

The results of seven straw polls were as follows:

- 4-3 against allowing transfer of registration to a new owner in the commercial areas (DTV I and II).
- 6-1 against allowing the transfer in the shoreland areas (SLR, SGDI and III).
- 5-2 against allowing any transfer of ownership even if it was a gift.
- 6-1 in favor of placing the VR standards and transition process language into Ch. 125 Land Use Ordinance.
 - This includes the terms, maximum number of registrations, transferability, transition from VR to VR-1 or to VR-2, continuance of registration for VR-1 and VR-2, and registration wait list (VR-2 Cap). This corresponds to the text highlighted in yellow and red in Ch. 174 Short-term Rental (registration) in the package.
- 7-0 for having only one draft order presented to the voters.

The workshop ended at approximately 7:05 PM.