

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

January 11, 2024 TOWN HALL 26 Court Street 1820 Court Room 6 PM

In person and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Bill Keohan. In attendance: Karen Buechs, Betty Cavacco, Bill Fornaciari, Liaison from the Historic Commission; Allen Hemberger, Clerk; Birgitta Kuehn, Planning Board and Russ Shirley, Liaison from the Plymouth Redevelopment Authority. In attendance via Zoom was John Mahoney, Liaison from the Select Board. Not present: Currently unappointed liaison from the Conservation Commission. Present, Fred Thys, Plymouth Independent Reporter.

Shirley made a motion to accept the agenda. It passed unanimously.

Keohan began to explain why Kuehn was seated with the committee at the table. He was interrupted by Cavacco calling out "point of order: The person seated at our table should be seated with the public. We have been informed by town counsel that she is not a member of this committee." At this point, Keohan tried to explain he had sent to the members of CPC letters from both town counsel, Kate McKay, and Birgitta Kuehn's personal counsel, Steven Triffletti, Town Moderator. He attempted to explain that Kuehn had not been removed at a posted, public hearing. The two lawyers arrived at different conclusions. Buechs spoke up and said she did not want to disrespect the decision of the Planning Board. She felt that Kuehn was putting the CPC in a very bad position. The CPC was caught in Kuehn's argument with the Planning Board.

Kuehn requested to go to the podium to speak. At the podium she stated that according to her lawyer's opinion and according to the Town of Plymouth By-Law 14-1 she was appointed to the CPC for three years by the Planning Board. Without the posting and a public hearing, she cannot be removed. No public hearing has taken place. She was elected to the Planning Board by the public. A public hearing is scheduled for February 14, 2024. She requested both legal counsel opinions be in the minutes for the record. The minutes of the Planning Board of October 11, 2022 would also be included in the minutes.

Buechs cell phone rang. She stepped away from the table and answered it. Then stated "that was Tim Grandi, Chair of the Planning Board; he said Birgitta was removed from this committee, 10/11/23, and she has not been reappointed."

Keohan asked for a motion to determine the decision of the CPC if Kuehn should remain at the table. Agreeing with Town Council that Kuehn could not be a voting member of the CPC: Cavacco, Buechs, , Fornaciari and Mahoney. Remain at table: Shirley and Hemberger. Keohan abstained.

Keohan requested Kuehn to please take a seat with the audience.

Kuehn requested to speak at the podium. Keohan granted. Kuehn said she felt this was a travesty. That we have by-laws and due process to protect citizens. She was elected by the public as a duly elected planning board member.

Fornaciari called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken: YES: Cavacco, Fornaciari, Buechs, Hemberger and Mahoney. NO: Shirley. Abstaining: Keohan.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Davis and Susan Dwyer, LWV Observer Corps members

When the minutes of this meeting have been approved, they will be available at Plymouth-ma.gov website. Go to the Government tab, click Agendas and Minutes, scroll down to and click Community Preservation Committee, look to the right and click the minutes icon.