Call to Order
Preston Crow, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm. Joe Rubertone, Member; Tricia Kendall, Member; Dale Buchanan, Member; Phillip Williams, Member were present. Peter Matchak, Town Planner and Emma Snellings, Assistant Planner were also present.

Mr. Crow announced that the meeting is being recorded and broadcast by WACA TV. Mr. Crow reviewed the meeting agenda.

Public Hearing – Scenic Roads Public Hearing (Chestnut Street and Cedar Street)
Mr. Crow read the public notice to open the hearing. Mr. Crow stated that this petition for a permit, if granted, would cover a very small aspect of the overall very large Eversource project.

Rick Parquet, of TRC and Consulting Engineer for Eversource Energy, appeared and introduced the Eversource project team. Mr. Parquet provided a high-level presentation of the project and the scenic road request. He explained that the project is intended to replace a 3.7-mile 6-inch diameter distribution pipe, of which 1.1 miles is in Hopkinton and 2.6 miles is in Ashland. The purpose of the project is to address a pressure reduction in the line by increasing the 6-inch portion of the line to 12 inches, the diameter of the east and west sections of the line, to make the whole system uniform.

Mr. Parquet explained that the scope of the project is the crossing of Chestnut and Cedar streets, two scenic roads in Ashland, where the pipeline is in a 20 ft. easement, the trench depth is 4-5 ft., with 3 ft. of covering. Mr. Parquet reviewed schematics of the area and the proposed construction that will take place in phases for 5 years between March and November starting in 2020 through 2024. The work will start on the western end of Ashland in 2021 and conclude at Cedar St. in 2024.

Ms. Kendall questioned the timing of this request. Matt Walters, of Eversource, responded that the Energy Facilities Sighting Board prefers that projects begin with the local permitting process to allow for input from the community.

Mr. Matchak asked, and Mr. Walters responded that so far in Hopkinton a local Order of Conditions has been obtained from their Conservation Commission (ConCom) and they have filed for permits with their Planning Board, and in Ashland ConCom hearings are in progress and the next meeting is scheduled for August 26th.

Mr. Crow suggested that a Site Alteration permit may be required for Ashland. The applicant responded that all soil, less rocks found when excavating will be replace into the trench.

Mr. Rubertone summarized that the purpose of this petition is for the disassembling and reassembling of approximately 20 ft. of existing stone walls on Chestnut St. and potentially Cedar St. and excludes the cutting of trees 8 inches or greater.

Mr. Crow asked, and Mr. Matchak confirmed that a Surety Bond can be required as a condition of the permit.

The applicant added that as a result of filing a PNF they have a letter from the Mass Historic Commission that says they do not expect any adverse effects to cultural resources which includes stone walls.

Mr. Crow asked for comments from the public.
Several members of the audience appeared, including Mark Dassoni, 49 Hawthorn Rd.; Nancy Moscat, 73 Braeburn Ln.; Roberta Soolman, 28 Woodridge Ln. that asked about the proximity of the easements and the stone wall, whether the petition being reviewed only pertains to the stone walls, and if this project will affect the stone walls at Warren Woods. The board’s response to these questions was that the petition is only pertaining to the stone walls and no walls at Warren Woods will be impacted.

Ms. Kendall said the historical value of the walls need to be consider and she stated her concern that an approval from this board may imply an implicate approval of the entire project, and she does not want this board’s decision to impact the larger issues that are still pending approval.

Mr. Crow suggested that the board conduct a site visit and have a draft decision written that includes a surety bond condition at an appropriate amount, and a comment that the Planning Board’s decision is not an endorsement of the entire project.

The Eversource project team requested a continuance of the public hearing until September 12th, an extension on the decision deadline until September 19th and offered to facilitate a site visit.

Mr. Buchanan made a motion to accept the request for an extension on the decision deadline until September 19, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rubertone with a vote of 5-0-0.

Ms. Kendall made a motion to continue the Eversource Scenic Roads public hearing until September 12, 2019 at 7:15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Buchanan with a vote of 5-0-0.

Report from Board Members and Town Planner.

Mr. Matchak reported that the application was received for 81 W. Union St. Phase II and the hearing is scheduled for August 22, 2019, and the project’s Site Plan and Storm Water report on the town’s website. Mr. Matchak invited the board and the public to review the Planning Board’s document repository on the website and provide their feedback, as he suggested that the website can replace or supplement the use of CoUrbanize to disseminate project documentation. Mr. Matchak also invited the board to review Planning Dept. and the Planning Board pages on the website and provide their feedback on the layout.

Mr. Matchak also reported that the Planning office received a grant from the State for $27,000 and the funds are still available for the downtown zoning review.

Mr. Rubertone asked if the application for the Village of the Americas in line with the zoning for that area. Mr. Matchak responded that the conversation is still in the preliminary stage.

Administrative Matters: future meetings, public hearings.

Mr. Matchak and the board agreed to cancel the August 8th meeting, as there are no agenda items and no quorum due to board member planned absences.

The Village the Clocktown and 81 W. Union Phase II public hearing are scheduled for August 22nd, and Eversource will return on September 12th.

Review and Approve Minutes

Mr. Buchanan made a motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2019 as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kendall with a vote of 5-0-0.

Adjournment

Mr. Buchanan made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:47 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kendall with a vote of 5-0-0.