

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
PLANNING BOARD
May 12, 2021
TOWN HALL & VIRTUAL MEETING
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Kenneth Smith, Chairman
George Oleen
Robbie Cooper
Sari Hoy
Caitlin Marsden McNeill

Others Present: Members of the Public
Lori Neil, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Reorganization – After a brief discussion, there was a motion from G. Oleen to leave the Board remaining as it is. C. McNeill seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

ANR Requests – No ANR's

Approval of Minutes: The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes of April 28, 2021.
G. Oleen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. C. McNeill seconded the motion, the motion carried 3-0.

Recodification of Bylaw's per Select Board – Letter dated 1/20/21. The Select Board and Town Counsel have investigated the town General Bylaws and feel that some belong in the Zoning Bylaws. Chairman Smith stated he would scan and send to each member. The first is Chapter 89 which contains to Community Residences which are group homes and Chapter 168 is in regards to signs. This will then go to a town meeting.

S. Hoy joined the meeting at 7:04pm.

Board Member Items: G. Oleen mentioned all other Boards receive stipends. He believes the Planning Board should receive stipends as well. Chairman Smith said he will put in a request to see if this can happen.

G. Oleen asked why the Boards cannot meet with the public. He noticed in Lori's email it stated, if we are outside, we can meet together, but not with the public. G. Oleen stated, if we are outside, the CDC states we can meet without masks. We are not beholden to the Select Board. We are elected by the town people. G. Oleen stated, he sees no reason why the Planning Board can't have the meeting in public. Especially with the 5G Bylaw and Citizen's Petition coming up. We need those people to speak in person.

C. MacNeill stated, we are working diligently to find a way for the public to attend in person as we are holding our meetings outdoors. George Oleen and I feel very strongly about this. We

have, since last September, and we are continuing to try to determine how we can best serve as elected officials the public interest by enabling people to attend in public. Especially, for those who are not capable or comfortable with using Zoom or Conference Call.

Chairman Smith mentioned when he found out that we could not have people here, he sent a text to Rene Wood to see how this decision could possibly have been made. He had not heard back from her yet. He doesn't think everyone is in agreement. Chairman Smith stated, the Town Hall should be open. As far as the Planning Board is concerned, we are meeting in a town place and we are outdoors. Everything is opening up and our town is fighting that for some reason. We want the public here. We are in a pavilion where the public should be welcome.

C. McNeill mentioned concerns regarding Zoom protocols. The most valuable thing about Zoom is being able to see other people. She asked if Chairman Smith could ask the Select Board what the procedures are of being on Zoom. We are using Zoom just as we do Free Conference Call. C. McNeill also wanted to ensure we would be able to share the screen, for example to show ANR's. C. McNeill asked why the hold-up on the 5G Bylaw. Chairman Smith stated it was due to the time needed to go into the newspaper.

Nina Anderson discussed comments and changes to the 5G Bylaw. She discussed the Insurance of Liability and the Compliance Bond and well as the issue of signals with trees. S. Hoy mentioned we could at least protect trees on town roads. Chairman Smith said he thinks the three items should stay in the Bylaws. Chairman Smith said finalize the document then Lori will put in the paper. The hearing should make a hearing in June.

Chairman Smith explained the hearing process of the Citizen's Petition to Lauren Hyde. L. Hyde mentioned that she has started her Bylaw Committee and gave an update.

Chairman Smith reviewed the mail:

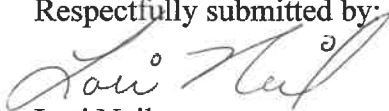
Town of Egremont – Board of Appeals – Notice of Decision Issued to: Fiber Connect (Adam Chait)

Town of Egremont – Board of Appeals – Notice of Decision Issued to: Mary Houghton Fisheries & Wildlife – Draft Priority Habitat Map of rare species available for public comment May 3 through July 3, 2021.

C. McNeill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. G. Oleen seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:



Lori Neil
Administrative Assistant

Supporting Documents:

Draft Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2021

Letter from Select Board

Mail