

Planning Board Minutes

June 8, 2022

7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Members present: George Oleen, Chair
Robbie Cooper
Sari Hoy
Ken Smith

Members absent: Caitlin Marsden McNeill

Others present: None

Chairman Oleen called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, with himself, Robbie and Ken present. Sari joined the meeting at 7:01pm.

1. **ANR Requests:** None
2. **Community Residences Public Hearing:** Robbie made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Ken. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Oleen read the public hearing notice and that it was published in the Berkshire Eagle on 5/24 and 5/31/22. Notices were sent to all abutting towns as well. Chairman Oleen asked if there were any board comments. No comments from board members. No public present to make comments. Sari made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Robbie. Vote was unanimous. Ken mentioned afterwards that Chairman Oleen needed to draft a letter to the Town Administrator and Select Board indicating we had our public hearing and there were no comments by the board or public. This letter is a formality in the process and now makes this bylaw change ready to go on the next Town Warrant.
3. **Community Residences Board Opinion:** Ken made a motion that the board should support this bylaw change on the Town Warrant. This motion was seconded by Sari and passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of minutes:** April 13, 2022 minutes, Ken made a motion to accept as presented. Robbie seconded the motion. No discussion. Sari abstained from voting due to not being present at that meeting, other 3 members tonight voted in favor of accepting the minutes as presented.
5. **Dark Skies Bylaw Discussion:** Sari asked the group what they felt about the Northampton and New Marlborough bylaws and how detailed we wanted ours to be. New Marlborough put in a Dark Skies bylaw as well as a light intrusion bylaw at the same time. Ken indicated there was a light intrusion situation in Sheffield several years

ago. So that is an issue that has come up in the past. Sari feels the light intrusion portion would be good for us to consider. Of the 6-page document, several pages are definitions and there are also many illustrations as to what is and is not acceptable for lighting. Definitions and illustrations will help landowners and the Zoning Enforcement Officer regulate the bylaw. Discussion ensued about the 5-year timeline to resolve any pre-existing, non-conforming lights. We then discussed how hard it is to see the stars with our light pollution issue and downtown is one of the biggest culprits. Item will be discussed in future meetings. Lengthy discussion about tree cover and specifically Elm trees ensued, but nothing specific to this bylaw proposal.

6. Planning Board Mail Review: George indicated there was no mail

7. Board Member Items:

Robbie – Mentioned that GB passed the short-term rental bylaw. He then gave a general description of what the bylaw entailed.

Sari – none

Ken – none

George – Need to delegate someone to the BRPC at our next meeting. Sari is the current delegate from the PB.

Next meeting is with the Select Board, what items should we discuss:

George – getting approved minutes online in a timely fashion

Ken – clarification on email communications, what is and is not allowed. How can we “push” information to each other without violating open meeting law.

Sari – How do the SB and PB relate to each other? What is the hierarchy of each and how are we to work together? George brought up the discussion about questions for the attorney and then referenced he had not seen any comments from Sari and Ken’s meeting with him.

8. Public Inquiries: None

Sari made a motion, seconded by Ken to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ken Smith

