

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
PLANNING BOARD
NOVEMBER 9, 2022
VIA ZOOM
7:00 PM**

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

Board Members Absent: Caitlin McNeill

Chairman Oleen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

S. Hoy moved to approve the September 14, 2022 minutes, seconded by R. Cooper. The motion carried 3-0, Ken Smith abstained.

Discussion on Dark Sky Bylaw:

S. Hoy and R. Cooper did a driving survey of the street lights on Route 7 from Gt. Barrington town line to CT state line, Berkshire School Road and Maple Ave. S. Hoy commented that the street lighting on Berkshire School was less than she expected but there was more non-conforming private lighting on homes and garages. She discussed lumens and how to measure them. The Board discussed Dark Sky laws in other states, but Massachusetts does not have one. S. Hoy will investigate lumens and shielding and report back to the Board.

K. Smith suggested that the bylaw be changed to be more appealing, such as only applying to new construction, although the Board would love to get people to comply by changing out current fixtures and bulbs.

R. Cooper discussed a time curfew for when lighting is allowed. S. Hoy stated that she would be in favor of starting off with changing the bylaw to a combination of new construction only and time limits for lighting and build upon that. This would give the Board a chance to make residents aware of issues with lighting. Chairman Oleen stated that he thinks giving everyone 5 years to be compliant is enough time, which would include lighting angles.

The Board discussed business security lighting and the use of motion lights. The Board discussed allowing lighting ½ hour before sunrise and off by 11 pm. and exemptions to the bylaw for specific situations. Discussion continued on the ecological reasons to reduce lighting.

The Board reviewed and discussed a section in a draft bylaw regarding the intension of the bylaw. S. Hoy stated that she would like to present the bylaw with the intention being to encourage, not require compliance when it is first introduced and discuss any further changes or additions at a future date. Chairman Oleen stated that the Town has to accept it first then the Board could introduce changes. The Board then discussed the lighting at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and why it was needed late at night, Chairman Oleen suggested asking the school board. R. Cooper offered to speak with the District.

It was the consensus of the Board to change the draft bylaw to be directed at new construction only and insert a curfew for lighting. They further discussed adding that anyone could apply for an exemption through the Planning Board. R. Cooper expressed his opinion that there should be more wording to the exemption section of the bylaw, such as insurance compliance issues. K. Smith stated that the exemption section could state, "property owners must come before the Planning Board for an exemption". The Board

also discussed providing guidance for future Board members on the current Board's decisions regarding exemptions.

The Board discussed lighting in the morning and the need to have that lighting, electronic displays, which will have to be removed from this draft bylaw as they are not allowed in the sign bylaw and the definition for outdoor lighting that will have to be changed.

It was the consensus of the Board to table further discussion for this proposed bylaw until the next meeting.

Housing Production Plan:

Board members reviewed a copy of the Housing Production Plan and discussed what their role was and what the Select Board was expecting from the Planning Board. Discussion ensued regarding the data and S. Hoy stated that members should focus on page 44 Implementation and that the Select Board was asking the Planning Board for their feedback. Discussion continued regarding zoning changes for affordable housing and accessible housing. K. Smith said that he hasn't been given a copy of the updated bylaws but can see the updated version on the Town website. Discussion continued regarding tiny houses, receivership program and public transportation. This topic will be discussed at future meetings.

Board Member Items:

K. Smith asked if any members had attended the Select Board meeting and asked if anyone knew about a proposed bylaw amendment for Marijuana. Chairman Oleen stated that he attended the meeting and wasn't sure what the proposed amendments were, but stated that the Select Board planned to send something to the Planning Board for review.

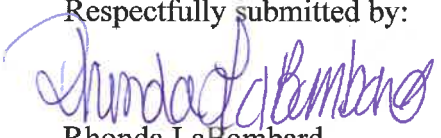
It was noted that the Board no longer had a clerk and someone from the Administrator's office would be taking care of the minutes.

Next meeting to be held December 14, 2022 at 7pm, via Zoom.

R. Cooper made a motion to adjourn, seconded by K. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Oleen adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Rhonda LaBombard
Town Administrator

Documents Reviewed at This Meeting:

Draft Bylaw

Housing Production Plan