

MINUTES
PLANNING BOARD
March 2, 2022
Via Zoom and in-person

Present: Chair, Deirdre Daley-in person ,Vice Chair Lou Alvarez – in person, Shawn Talbot-in person, Nate Sikkila- in person, Josh Muhonen- in person, Lou Guarino- online designated to sit in for Tim Somero, John Schaumloffel –online and Jennifer Minckler- in person. Sam Benedict was in the audience in person.

Selectmen/Chair/Land Use Report:

Selectman Shawn Talbot mentioned that at the 03/1/2022 Select Board meeting, a motion was made that no Department Head, Board, or Committee can impose a mask or vaccination mandate. People have the right to choose whether to wear a mask or be vaccinated. Deirdre requested clarification that people can participate in the manner they choose either in person or virtually. Selectman Talbot mentioned that the Board of Selectmen have had issues with quality and sound so have not used Zoom. He hopes that with the new video system, Zoom will be available for the Select Board and any other board in the future. Deirdre asks that equitable virtual meetings be added to the no mask mandate so that people can participate without being in person. John Schaumloffel feels it would be best to contact Town Counsel to review as the Select Board have limited control over Boards that have statutory authority over RSAs and that control is limited only to the budgets. John agrees with virtual meetings not only due to the pandemic but for those who are traveling for business, infirmed, etc.

The Land Use Clerk reported the Cemetery Sexton and the Trustees are not able to attend the meeting on March 16, 2022 and have been invited to the April 6, 2022 meeting but the Sexton has not yet responded. Selectman Talbot advised that the Board of Selectmen, the Cemetery trustees, the Town Attorney and the State are meeting to review South Side Cemetery on March 16, 2022.

The Land Use Clerk advised that the check was received from Brook Haven Farm. The check is for the Intent to excavate fee for tax year 2021. The Board of Assessors will not be reviewing the application until the meeting of March 7, 2022.

Chair Deirdre Daley asked about the Attorney to represent the Planning Board and suggested Nathan Midolo from Upton & Hatfield. Motion to hire Nathan Midolo as Attorney for the Planning Board made by John Schaumloffel, seconded by Josh Muhonen. No further discussion. Motion carries with 1 abstention.

Minutes of January 19, 2022: The minutes were reviewed. No changes were made. Motion to accept the minutes by Lou Alvarez, seconded by Josh Muhonen. 1 abstention

Minutes of February 16, 2022: The minutes were reviewed and Solar was discussed among the Board and minutes amended to state Tim and Lou Guarino will look at the topic of solar separate from the Commercial District and report back to the group (with a focus on providing lower costs for electricity for town/town buildings).

Lou Alvarez received an email from an Electrician who sets up solar farms and will provide the contact information to the Land Use Clerk. Tim Somero and Lou Guarino are the contacts for solar but Lou Guarino requests that anything that comes in be distributed to the Planning Board for information purposes. Chair Deirdre suggested putting any solar information in the solar Dropbox. Motion to approve minutes with the amendment by John Schaumloffel, seconded by Lou Alvarez. Motion carries. 1 Abstention.

Old/New Business: Planning Board Bylaws were reviewed. The next meeting on March 16 is to be an Organizational meeting. The New Members will need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk. The Land Use Clerk will provide new members with By Laws, Master Plan, Land Use Books, and information on Introduction to the Planning Board training with NHMA.

Discussion of Commercial District and solar continued with the Board. Suggestions were made on how to involve the citizens of the town and receive their feedback on a Commercial District. There was also discussion of the master plan in relation to a commercial district. The topic of a commercial district will be further discussed at the April 20, 2022 meeting. A suggestion was made to hold a public hearing on the reviewing sections of the master plan in the months of May, June, July and August.

Shawn brought up the spending of ARPA funds and asked the Planning Board to complete a wish list of prioritized needs of the Planning Board. The funding could go towards obtaining a master plan facilitator and appears to be the only item the Planning Board would need to allocate funds for. The funds do not need to be spent until the year 2024.

Motion to adjourn by Josh Muhonen, seconded by Nate Sikkila. Motion carries

Adjourn at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Minckler
Land Use Administrator