

Select Board/Planning Board Joint Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Present: Select Board Chair Marie Angelides, Marc Strange (6:40 p.m.) and Richard Foster.
Planning Board Chair Donald Holland, Walter Gunn, Bruce Colton, and Ken Taylor

Absent: Select Board members Mark Gold and Tom Lachiusa

Also Present: Town Manager Lyn Simmons, Paul Pasterczyk, Debbie House, Joshua Levine, Bianca Damiano

Open Session

Planning Board Chair Donald Holland opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Two applications were received in the Select Board's office for the Planning Board vacancy. Mr. James Ryan withdrew his application. Mr. Joshua Levine attended the meeting for his interview. Planning Board Chair Donald Holland introduced the members of both boards.

Mr. Levine, 78 Farmington Avenue, introduced himself and stated that he appreciates the opportunity to speak and be considered for the Planning Board position. Mr. Holland asked why Mr. Levine would think that an independent traffic study would be important on projects. Mr. Levine responded that this would avoid the appearance of impropriety and be transparent. Mr. Colton questioned whether there could be a conflict of interest for Mr. Levine, as an attorney that represents developers. Mr. Levine stated that if a former client appeared before the Planning Board he would recuse himself. Mr. Gunn noted that he was impressed with Mr. Levine's familiarity with zoning bylaws and land use laws, and believes Mr. Levine would be an excellent addition to the Planning Board. Mr. Gunn questioned why Mr. Levine changed career paths from working with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. to being a local attorney in East Longmeadow. Mr. Levine responded that his former job required a lot of traveling and he had small children. He moved back here for a slower pace.

Select Board Chair Marie Angelides called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. now that a quorum was achieved with the arrival of Marc Strange.

Regarding the Tennessee Gas pipeline issue and the new bylaw that passed, Ms. Angelides questioned whether Mr. Levine would have any difficulty deciding the case when Tennessee Gas goes before the Planning Board if they follow the requirements of the bylaw. Mr. Levine believes the Planning Board's duty is to follow the law and bylaws. He would familiarize himself with the new bylaw.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Levine why he would like to serve on the Planning Board. Mr. Levine feels it is his civic duty and is passionate about where he lives. Mr. Foster asked if Mr. Levine has any unique talents. Mr. Levine believes he can see the other side of the coin, and is acclimated to digging deeper. Mr. Strange asked Mr. Levine what other boards he has practiced before. Mr. Levine responded that he has worked on liquor licensing before Select Boards. Ms. Angelides asked Mr. Levine whether he would consider applying for the elected Planning Board position in June. Mr. Levine would consider it.

Mr. Gunn made the motion to adjourn the Planning Board meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The Planning Board voted 4 in favor 0 opposed.

The Select Board continued on to their regular meeting.

The Select Board and Planning Board will hold another joint meeting on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. to make the appointment to the Planning Board.

1/6/2020 Select Board/Planning Board Joint Meeting
1/21/2020 Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie House

Documents:

Agenda

Application - James Ryan

Application - Joshua Levine