

Planning Board – Public Hearing

UCX Meet Me Teleconference Platform – P: 413-565-4149, Conference ID 249183
Wednesday April 1st, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Ken Taylor, Bruce Colton, Josh Levine.

Others Present: None

The *Planning Board Public Hearing* was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Donald Holland. This Open Public Hearing of Longmeadow Planning Board was conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth because of the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus. To mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, the Commonwealth has advised and directed municipalities to suspend public gatherings. As such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The Order, which was posted with agenda materials for this meeting, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting; ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. For this meeting, the Longmeadow Planning Board convened by telephone conference via UCX Meet Me Conferencing, as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join. Each person was required to announce themselves for identification purposes and to mute their telephones when not speaking to eliminate background noise. The meeting was successfully recorded.

Two legal notices were published, both on March 12th and March 19th of the present year, for the following items, for which supporting documentation was filed with the Town Clerk and Department of Community Development in advance:

- a) Citizen petitions proposing to amend the zoning by-laws:
 - a. Petition A: Ground-mounted solar panel location, pitch and maximum kilowatts.
 - b. Petition B: (expressly conflicts with Longmeadow By-laws Section B. Uses in Residential Areas) seeks to expand where ground-mounted solar panels can be located; also includes height and kilowatt limitations from Petition A.
- b) Proposed amendments to the zoning by-laws:
 - a. Article IV, Section E, Subsection 1 (b) related to non-conforming buildings destroyed by fire.
 - b. Article IV, Section B, Subsection 1.2(a), related to the garaging of vehicles.

Mr. Gunn made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Colton, to continue the public hearing to May 6th (next regularly scheduled Planning Board Meeting) to allow time for the Board to be better equipped to provide audio and visual presentations by the proponents of the proposed zoning by-law changes, if indeed the Board is still required to have this form of meeting then; the applicant was previously notified of this intent and agreed.

Roll call vote – Mr. Gunn: yes; Mr. Colton: yes; Mr. Taylor: yes; Mr. Levine: yes; Mr. Holland: yes. All in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Chair Don Holland made the motion, and was seconded by Mr. Colton, to adjourn the public hearing and continue to May 6th. Roll call vote – Mr. Gunn: yes; Mr. Colton: yes; Mr. Taylor: yes; Mr. Levine: yes; Mr. Holland: yes. All in favor, motion carries unanimously, hearing closed at 7:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano