

Planning Board – Public Hearing

Zoom Virtual Platform – www.zoom.us, P: 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 982 9889 4770, Password: 73277
Wednesday May 6th, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Ken Taylor, Bruce Colton, Josh Levine.
Others Present: Curt Freedman, Town Moderator Rebecca Townsend

The *Planning Board Virtual Public Hearing* was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Donald Holland. This is a continuation of the April 1st, 2020 hearing.

As the town government adjusts to conducting business under the current state of emergency and in looking at alternative standards to provide a safe voting experience for citizens in the near future, the Select Board, per the Town Moderator’s recommendation, voted at its May 4th meeting to reduce the number of articles on the Annual Town Meeting’s (ATM) warrant, thus voting to withdraw certain town-initiated zoning bylaw amendments from said warrant and proposing that they be placed on the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting; however, the zoning bylaws pertaining to gas infrastructure and the Planning Board’s Site and Design Review process will remain on the warrant for the upcoming meeting. In the case of Citizen Petitions, their inclusion in next month’s ATM warrant is determined by the applicant.

Mr. Freedman, who’s petitions have been renamed 1 and 2 from A and B respectively, expressed that he had decided to withdraw on ATM floor the Citizen Petition 1 but is willing to work with public bodies on finding the best timing under the law when Citizen Petition 2 can be discussed with the most public participation possible given the circumstances.

Additionally, the board has received recommendations from town officials on how to provide the platform to the hearing process during the unique circumstances the pandemic has brought upon municipal business. The following possibilities were discussed among all attendees:

- a) The Town Counsel has advised the Planning Board that, without a recommendation from said board, the petitions may not be discussed on the floor during the ATM. Therefore, the hearing could be continued to Planning Board’s next meeting date of June 3rd to allow more time for the petition’s language to be strengthened.
- b) The Town Moderator has advised against postponing articles “indefinitely”. Since zoning-related articles have particular protocols per town meeting time, a motion can be made on ATM floor that the petitions be referred back to the Planning Board thus allowing further public discussions during the summer months and prevents the perception of any “negative” action taken on the article during the ATM.
- c) During next month’s ATM, the Citizen Petition 1 is withdrawn and Citizen Petition 2 is postponed for the Fall Town Meeting.
- d) During next month’s ATM, both petitions are withdrawn and the applicant explores the alternative of seeking a special permit from the ZBA for the installation of solar panels on the sides of a given property.

Mr. Gunn made a motion, and was seconded by Mr. Taylor, to continue the public hearing to June 3rd (next regularly scheduled Planning Board Meeting) to allow time for the Board and the applicant to explore all viable options that allow for the petitions to be strengthened and be heard with the best public participation possible. Roll call vote - Mr. Colton: yes; Mr. Taylor: yes; Mr. Levine: yes; Mr. Gunn: yes; Mr. Holland: yes. All in favor 5-0, motion carries unanimously, public hearing to continue on June 3rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano