

## Planning Board – Public Hearing

Zoom Virtual Platform – [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), P: 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 932 5846 0698, Password: 161910  
*Monday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 7:00 p.m.*

**Members Present:** Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Ken Taylor, Bruce Colton, Josh Levine.  
**Others Present:** Town Manager Lyn Simmons, Larry Goldberg.

The *Planning Board Virtual Public Hearing* was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Donald Holland.

The public hearing, which was advertised in the local paper on October 8<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> as well as on the town's website, was conducted with the purpose of reviewing the zoning bylaw changes proposed by the Town as it pertains to unpaid zoning violation fines, commercial vehicles and non-conforming structure reconstruction.

In recent days, an uptick in COVID infections both locally and regionally has caused the postponement of the Special Fall Town Meeting. While a tentative date has been selected (November 17<sup>th</sup>), the trend, observed by public officials that closely follow the COVID19 statistics, indicates that the Special Town Meeting will likely be postponed yet again; a key issue in attempting to safely convene such a large gathering during the colder months and Governor Baker's state of emergency is the need for use of an indoor space, which runs counter to mitigation efforts to stop or slow the spread of the virus.

Given that a Planning Board recommendation for any article that is to be presented at any town meeting must be made no later than six months prior to the meeting, Chair Don Holland feels it is best to continue the current hearing to December 2<sup>nd</sup>; should the board take any action on the proposed articles on said date, such action's validity would remain in effect until early June 2021, thus allowing some flexibility as the Town determines the best date and scenario to hold such gathering.

Resident Larry Goldberg understands the timeline of events but is concerned about its impact on enforcement as he continues to see a number of commercial vehicle-related zoning bylaw violations in his neighborhood. Both Mr. Gunn and Mr. Colton explained that as a policy body, zoning bylaw enforcement is outside the Planning Board's purview but the board is sympathetic to his concerns. Furthermore, it was noted that, even in the best-case scenarios (when bylaw amendments are recommended by a board, approved at a town meeting and approved by the State's Attorney General), enforcement of newly-adopted legal language generally occurs several months after it is originally proposed.

With that said, Chair Don Holland made a motion, and was seconded by Ken Taylor, to continue the public hearing to December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: Mr. Gunn: yes; Mr. Levine: yes, Mr. Taylor: yes; Mr. Colton: yes; Mr. Holland: yes. All in favor 5-0, public hearing to be continued.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bianca Damiano*