

Planning Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting July 6, 2020

Meeting held remotely via Zoom.

Members Present: Judy Eiseman, recording; Lexi Dewey, Pete Wilson, Leslie Laurie

Members Not Present: Anne Stoddard

Others attending: Rusty Rowell, Assessor; Jeff Lacy, Consultant

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Leslie Laurie offered her congratulations to Anne Stoddard on her election to the Board. Unfortunately due to a death of a friend, Anne was unable to be with us.

Minutes: June 23, 2020 minutes approved as presented.

Discussion of consultant hiring and updates: Results of the election and outcome of Select Board meeting today: Bob Agoglia will remain Chair with Tara Loomis as Vice Chair and David Shannabrook as Clerk. The new Town Clerk will be Sandra Burgess who will start on July 11 leaving outgoing Clerk Kathy Martell sufficient time to prepare for the handover of the office.

Eiseman presented the concept of hiring Jeff Lacy as the Planning Board's consultant on the solar bylaw revision and noted that inquiries have been made to the Conservation Commission about the possibility of a solar array on land owned by Cowls in Cadwell Forest with no action anticipated since the Commission will be observing the Governor's emergency recommendations about distancing and meetings until it is rescinded. Eiseman observed that, all things being equal, this might be a good place for such an installation in Pelham as there already is a road available and some portions are already in use with the tower there. Lacy and the Shutesbury Planning Board successfully passed new solar regulations at their town meeting on June 27. Leslie Laurie moved to spend up to \$1,000 for consulting with Lacy on the bylaw. Seconded by Dewey and voted unanimously by roll call vote.

A brief discussion ensued during which Lacy pointed out that prospects for pilot payments are not good currently as a case is proceeding in the courts that has bearing on whether this is legal. Also what constitutes "unreasonable regulation" of solar installations under the state Zoning Act has not yet been determined by the courts. Pete hopes to find an avenue where a larger scale might be possible in Pelham; he has population concerns and fears that demands will be put on suburbs like Pelham.

Dewey and Eiseman will continue as a sub-committee with the intention of reporting back to the board with a draft that clarifies certain elements in our bylaw by August 10. After the Board reviews the draft it will be circulated to other boards and commissions or committees, including the Energy Committee and Town Counsel for their input before scheduling public hearings in early September. Eiseman will speak with Lacy later this week to ensure he has all necessary information to begin the project.

Adjourned: 8:08 pm