

**Minutes
Planning Board Meeting
7 pm History Room Library
March 19, 2018**

Members present: Jenks, Dewey, Eiseman (recording)
Others: Charlie Thompson

Minutes approved for March 12, 2018 with minor correction.

Updates. Jenks described last week's Select Board meeting and items for town meeting warrant. Additional discussion of possible revisions/additions to bylaw proposal will occur once Town Counsel returns the document. This is expected no later than March 30. April 23 has been set as the date for the second public hearing.

Continued Bylaw Review. Three items briefly discussed:

- New language to increase the standards for "dark sky" lighting in the by laws. This would supplement what is already included with the understanding that it may not be possible to add until after the town meeting vote.
- Suggestions from Cam Weimar at the March 12 meeting regarding garage placement and driveways as well as small tweaks dealing with such things as "shall" vs. "may" language, etc. Members discussed possibility of incorporating some changes into proposed by laws before town meeting warrant is printed to ensure comprehensive review in site plan review procedures.
- Issue of a raise in taxes. It has been asked if a raise might be caused as a result of the new zoning. Assessor's opinion is that while that might occur as a result of particular actions taken by a landowner on his property, the simple fact of the zoning change would not alter the tax assessment for the area or the town. This would be a matter dealt with during any reassessment at a later date.
- A Select Board member has raised a question as to whether it would be an ethical violation for her to vote on the proposed zoning since she may benefit in some way in the future, from its passage. Members have looked into this and concluded that this notion is a misunderstanding of the ethics law since there is no obvious or specific value or benefit being given to her or any other town official or citizen. Whereas there may be some benefit to the town as a whole or to some individuals by a zoning change, it is equally likely to be seen as a detriment to others and remains a vague hypothesis. The Board will consult with PVPC or town counsel on the issue if pressed on the issue.

Noted. Board is signed up for a Webinar on Storm Water Management on March 28 entitled "Soak up the Rain" at 1 pm

Adjourn 8:17 pm