

## **Pelham Planning Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date: April 13, 2020**

**Location: By Zoom**

**Members Present.** Judy Eiseman, Lexi Dewey, Leslie Laurie, Linda Spink, Pete Wilson, Anne Stoddard (recording)

Called to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Minutes of March 24, 2020 meeting were approved.
2. Announcements.
  - Judy reported that Karen Ribeiro is not running again for Select Board. Two others have taken out papers: David Shanabrook, retired teacher and Tara Loomis a program manager.
  - A three-person search committee is being formed to recruit an appointed Town Clerk. A Warrant article is being prepared to reverse the Town's previous decision to have an appointed (rather than elected) Town Clerk.
  - Town Meeting is rescheduled for June 6. There is no provision for the meeting to be virtual or other details at this time. The deadline for Warrant articles is April 20, but this is subject to change pending further information from the Select Board.
3. Bills were reviewed for payment: \$185.64 for advertisements in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. \$345.00 for Anne Stoddard's time. Reimbursement of \$20.26 to Anne for office supplies at Staples. Leslie moved that all be paid. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. PVPC assessment for Pelham for FY 2021 will be \$223.96. That is an increase of \$5.45 over FY 2020.
5. The Governor has issued an order suspending State permitting deadlines and extending the validity of state permits. A copy of the order is attached.
6. Judy proposed that she and Lexie form a sub-committee to re-draft the solar by-law. Lexie has been doing research on the topic. She visited three solar arrays in Whately, North Amherst and Shutesbury. She learned more about 1,2 and 3 phase wiring and she talked to Nexamp, Inc. a company that puts up arrays for towns. Judy has received a map for the region showing the environmental constraints of Pelham and the surrounding communities. Several questions have been raised by Planning Board Members and through the public hearing. What is our goal regarding solar development in town? What does it mean to be a Green Community? What is meant by large commercial vs. small homeowner? Should an installation be capped at 5 acres? Clear definitions are needed. The sub-committee will research these and other questions and come back to the board.

Any concerns should be emailed to Judy or Lexie. If possible, they will report back to the Board in three weeks and we will discuss their recommendations at the May 11 meeting.

7. The Amethyst Brook Apartment project has received a Certificate of Eligibility. That allows the group to go the next step. There was discussion about whether the Planning Board wanted to meet as a committee with Thomas Kegelman to discuss the concerns and possible ways of addressing them. It was decided that this information would be provided during the Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings.
8. The meeting with Cory Shumway, previously scheduled for the May 11 meeting, will be postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next meeting will be May 11, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Stoddard, Assistant

Attachments:

Governor's order regarding permitting deadlines.