

Planning Board Regular Meeting

January 22, 2018, 7 pm Library

Present: Wilson, Jenks, Dewey, Eiseman (recording)

Minutes of January 16, 2018 were corrected and approved.

Updates from the Chair: Dillon Sussman's contract is ready to be signed. Abbie has been working with Karen Ribiero on the MVP grant and Karen thought a liaison from the PB would be desirable. However, it has been reported that the Select Board does not have liaisons for elected boards and will not send someone to us. Therefore, Abbie will attend the Select Board meeting on February 7 to update the Select Board on what we are doing. Also, the Select Board is revising the Pelham Slate and wants to know whether we would like to be the "featured" Board with information about each member and reasons for serving. Members agreed to do this as it seems timely given the zoning revisions we are undertaking.

New business: Concerns about traffic calming and control of the VC four corners have arisen. Via email, Dillon responded to Abbie's questions that traffic calming is "vitally important." He went on to say:

However, they are primarily the Town's responsibility and that kind of Town action is largely outside the purview of Zoning. In other words, whether or not you adopt the zoning changes is not going to change what the Town is required to do. Arguing the zoning shouldn't change because the Town hasn't acted on traffic calming seems like a red herring to me.

Zoning is relatively cheap and easy to change. Street infrastructure is expensive and long-term. Which should come first? Whichever has momentum and actual political viability. At this point it is the zoning. And you should work on a complete streets policy too.

If the Town changes the zoning it demonstrates a commitment to a village center and validates the need for the Town to act on pedestrian improvements and traffic calming. So I think changing the zoning is a step toward the necessary momentum for street improvements.

Meanwhile, zoning can have an influence over pedestrian amenities and traffic calming related to private development. I believe the appropriate language is in the current proposal (though I'll want to confirm that—it's been a while since I wrote it).

Please share my thoughts with the board during your meeting.

Dillon

Finalized zoning map for Village Center. Tom Doubleday and Callahan property will be included in mixed use zone and other areas have been put into neighborhood residential. Maps with owners names and a *draft* for our review from Dillon is being requested prior to finalization.

Timelines and publicity for forums/meetings: In addition to other meetings already scheduled, a Public meeting will be held on April 9 and the required public hearing on April 23rd.

Bylaw Review: Each Board member has committed to reading and commenting on the current draft at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.