

Planning Board Minutes

Date: May 10, 2017

Time: 7:30

Present:

X	J. Hargraves	ABSENT	A. Pease
X	J. Lindquist	X	W. Stacy
X	A. Leonard		

Also attending: Matt Leonard

Documents:

Building Permit for David Martin, 126 Turnpike Road

Building Permit for Brendon and Melissa O'Connell, 490 Foster Road

Building Permit for Bruce Adams, 911 South Road, Map 12 Parcel 39

Minutes:

The Board signed three building permits.

AL moved to approve the minutes of April 26, 2017. WS 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Discussed the Town Meeting and began thinking about how to go about researching and gathering information on the marijuana bylaw. We thought of three key issues:

- We need to gather actual data on the potential revenues and expenses on a commercial grow facility. Matt says that Peterborough has a facility. Fitchburg is proceeding through the permitting process for a facility at 25 Newport St. Both may be a resource of information.
- We need to research what a facility actually needs as far as square footage, water, power, etc.
- We need to figure out where in Ashby such a facility could realistically be zoned. The Industrial District comes to mind first, but other parts of town will be considered as well.

There was a lively discussion on (Translation: people felt very strongly about) the lessons learned from this Town Meeting. We DID NOT appreciate being disrespected and misrepresented through the social media. Andy, the young one, pointed out that we need to embrace the new world of social media and when we have something that will be coming before the Town, we need to regularly post facts and information about it so townspeople have a longer lead time to think about and discuss zoning changes. Matt, even younger, offered his Facebook site whenever we want to use it. Others thought we should have a Municipal site; others still don't want to deal with social media.

In particular regarding a marijuana bylaw, we need far more research and information in order to get a 'good' bylaw. We enthusiastically appointed Mark to start gathering information ASAP.

Another discussion was about planning a longer lead time for zoning changes, especially significant ones such as the Compact Development. Although we didn't take a formal vote, the sense of the Board

is that we are no longer willing to bring articles forward as quickly as we have been. We need longer lead time, more opportunities for community input, and more public communication of the facts.

Since Matt was in attendance, he put on his Tree Warden hat and told us that he's been in contact with Unitil to discuss street trees and street tree management. We gave him lots of credit points for trying to get Unitil to actually do something about the dead branches and pruning of the street trees.

Adjourn: 8:20

Submitted by Jeanie Lindquist, Executive Secretary