**Town of Lenox**

**Planning Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 28, 2020**

**The meeting was conducted via Zoom. A link and dial-in number was provided on the agenda, posted both at Town Hall and on the Town of Lenox website (www.townoflenox.com).**

**Members in attendance:** Tom Delasco (TD), Kate McNulty Vaughan (KMV), Kameron Spaulding (KS)

**Absent w/ Notification:** Pam Kueber, Jim Harwood

**Staff Present:** Gwen Miller, Town Planner (GM)

**Others:** Bruce Farkus

**Documents provided:** Meeting packet (agenda, 4/7/20 minutes, DLTA 2019 memo, proposed bylaw amendments)

TD opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. GM stating that pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Planning Board is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to listen to and/or view this meeting while in progress may do so by dialing into the meeting using the login information in the meeting notice. The Planning Board recorded the meeting.

1. **Approval of 4/7/20 Minutes**

Minutes were approved with slight amendments.

1. **Educational & Religious Uses**

GM explained the memo in the packet provided to the board for the meeting. She explained that as the memo states, towns may impose reasonable zoning regulations to govern educational and religious land use. However, the Lenox Zoning Bylaw places specific restrictions on density and setback distance on these uses. The DLTA review conducted by BRPC recommended changing these two specific requirements to make them more lenient.

In discussion, the Board suggested striking all of the special requirements and letting educational and religious uses comply with existing zoning bylaw dimensional requirements.

GM cautioned the town may want to consider some special regulations, and that some in the existing section may have been adopted for safety reasons. The group discussed the parking and driveway requirements.

The group agreed to see a comparison of the parking sections and discuss again at their next meeting.

1. **Agricultural Uses**

GM explained the conflict in the Lenox Zoning Bylaw related to exempt agricultural uses. A simple change of the Schedule of Uses would remedy that issue. She also explained a chicken bylaw drafted for the Board’s consideration.

KMV suggested the bylaw amendment could be improved by being more lenient on the number of chickens allowable on smaller properties (of an acre). KS agreed and TD agreed, TD suggested adding a smaller tier of chicken-keeping for parcels of between 0 to 1 acre. GM was asked to incorporate these changes and bring a different version to the next meeting.

The group also discussed allowing non-exempt farm stands by-right subject to safety standards. GM said she would prepare something for the next meeting.

1. Agenda for Next Meeting

The group discussed the next meeting and what would be on the agenda, including a list of items for a fall town meeting and a sign update from Jim Biancolo, Ariel Smith and Mark Smith.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.