

Approved as amended

Town of Lenox

Planning Board

Meeting Minutes

June 14th, 2022

Approve minutes for May 10 (PK) and May 24 (GM): TD moved to approve the May 10th meeting minutes; PK seconded. KMV had suggested amendments. TD moved to approve as amended. Minutes were approved as amended by roll call vote (all in favor). Minutes of 5/24 were tabled so Jim Harwood could be present.

Documents Available for Meeting: Sign bylaw documents from Signs Group; agenda; minutes

Members Present: Pam Kueber (Chair), Tom Delasco (Vice Chair), Kate McNulty Vaughan

Absent w/ Notification:

Others Present: Mark Smith, Jim Biancolo, Ariel Smith, Chris Batchelder, Al Bravo, Janis

Reorganization

PK asked if there were volunteers to share the Chairpersonship role of the Planning Board, to divided it up over varying months. There was discussion as to if this was allowable, and then discussion about who had time availability. GM noted there would be lots going on but with staff to delegate things toward and they could do one topic meetings. KMV nominated TD. TD said he could be Chair for the first quarter of the coming year, so PK will be Chair through the 6/28 meeting and then TD could take over squarely in the new fiscal year—July through September.

Work on sign bylaw, review progress to date and plan next steps and timeline for Town Meeting adoption.

The Signs Team (Mark Smith, Ariel Smith and Jim Biancolo) went through the proposed sign bylaw they have been preparing. They have been working to make the bylaw easier to use and consistent.

They talked through a number of proposed amendments. The discussion concluded on how to treat signs in residential districts.

This session on signs culminated in the Planning Board requesting an additional meeting to continue the review; GM suggested the group work backward from the Town Meeting date they hope to bring the new sign bylaw before, which if for annual Town Meeting in May 2023 would need to be on the warrant by March 2023.

The group decided to resume the sign discussion on July 12th. The group agreed the sign bylaw work should be at the top of the list in terms of priorities.

Updates / projects, as time allows

i. Wireless Needs Analysis and Master Plan: PK shared her recent conversation with David Maxson of Isotrope. She and GM would prepare with him for the Planning Board meeting on June 28th. She said the timeline was geared for completion by Fall 2022.

ii. Solar bylaw: Pam introduced Chris Batchelder, who is working on a solar development in Lenox. TD gave some background on the work the Planning Board is doing with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. He described some of the work Cara Farrell would be doing, including opening area for solar, and differentiating between different scales of solar—like small, medium, and large ground mounted solar bylaws. PK encouraged Chris Batchelder to make suggestions on the zoning bylaw. TD encouraged written comments. Chris said his client was creating a 5.7 KW system. Pam said they were going to try and open the solar zoning bylaw; and not create more limits. She referred Chris to the existing solar zoning bylaw.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

-Prepared by Gwen Miller.