

Town of Lenox

Planning Board

Meeting Minutes

Approved 3-28-23

3-14-23

Documents At Meeting: agenda, 3/7/23 minutes, proposed zoning bylaw, notice for public hearing, proposed amendments from Courtney Gilardi, communications plan drafted by PK

Members present via Zoom: Pam Kueber, Kate McNulty-Vaughan, Susan Lyman

Staff present via Zoom: Gwen Miller

Public: Jason Berger (HDC Chair), Sonya Bykofsky, Courtney Gilardi, Clarence Fanto

Absent w/ Notification: Tom Delasco, Jim Harwood

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 3-7-23 were tabled until next time.

Review of Proposed Zoning Bylaw

PK explained changes made at meeting on March 7, 2023—particularly changing the term “wireless telecommunications facilities” to “personal wireless service facilities” throughout the zoning bylaw and in the title. Went over changes made by PK and KMV after 3-7-23 meeting, went through each page and section.

Reviewed a long list of suggested amendments shared by Courtney Gilardi who indicated the amendments were prepared for the Special Town Meeting itself to be made on the floor at the time. KMV noted some of the content was similar or the same as what is in proposed zoning bylaw; also noted it mixed large wireless facilities with small wireless. PK said some of the submittal requirements in the amendments would go into a procedures manual versus the zoning bylaw.

KMV and PK explained that a lot of the language in the amendments were from the federal statute. PK also repeated that the Town is choosing to separate large wireless from small wireless in its regulations.

PK reiterated that the proposed zoning bylaw is laser-focused and gives ample tools to the Zoning Board of Appeals to make thoughtful decisions.

PK and KMV expressed appreciation for the concrete suggestions. PK also wondered if these would count as amendments at Town Meeting, since they were so many and so detailed.

Voted to bring zoning bylaw version with PK/KMV’s edits to Annual Town Meeting and to hold a public hearing on April 4, 2023.

Went over communications plan. PK explained they need to get out the vote, and share a concise and clear message with voters, and share simple messages—cell coverage is poor in parts of Lenox, people

need it to do their jobs, etc. And the proposed zoning bylaw will help fill gaps and leave the Town a choice and discretion in the matter.

PK reiterated that the current wireless overlay district in effect in Lenox does not provide the Town with protection. It is so limited where facilities can go that the Town would not be able to protect itself from a poorly sited facility. The existing facilities in the community all fall outside of the overlay district. Somebody could place a facility on the Curtis today. She also highlighted that while regulations for 5G infrastructure is handled in a different regulation, the proposed zoning bylaw will help the Town against poorly sited 5G equipment because it provides for ample, wide wireless coverage, negating an argument a provider can make that the Town lacks sufficient coverage in the community and **must** locate 5G equipment anywhere.

The group discussed the calendar until Annual Town Meeting, confirmed meeting date for public hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.