



Town of Southwick

Planning Board

MINUTES



Tuesday, September 22, 2020

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Doherty, Chair
Marcus Phelps, Vice Chair
David Sutton
David Spina
Jessica Thornton, Associate
Alan Slessler, Town Planner
Meghan Lightcap, Secretary

ABSENT:

A special meeting of the Planning Board was scheduled via Zoom and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Doherty. He stated that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting. Doug Moglin, Joe Deedy and Police Chief Kevin Bishop and Sergeant Rhett Bannish were in attendance as well as many residents, Cynthia Lydiard, Mike McMahon, Stacey Grimaldi, Alina Kuycharchuk, Dennis Hackett, Pete Griffiths, Christina Kuras, Alie Robb, Phillip Lemire, Christian and Amber Bach, Brooke Labydycz, Cori Rolland, William Teich, John Griffin, Jayson St. Jacques, Celeste St. Jacques, Vinny Abodanza, Christine Vedovelli-Peterson, Ryan Hedges, Dan Searles, Phil Losito, Dave McWilliams, Marissa and Brian Hughes, Dan McGrath, Danielle Dickstein, Jim Batradis, Christine Fleming, Tony Vedovelli, Bob Stevens, Craig Parrow, Hannah Dzadzio, Patrick and Mary Martin, JS Pagano, Hope Tremblay, Stacey Rooney, Peter Flynn, Matt Bulmer, Jeremy Fiorentino, Karina Yarrows, Mark Keither, Pat Armstrong, Randy Rindells, Sarah Hedges, Karen Demaio, Jim Doyle, Bob Dwayne, Jen Spagnolo, Sheila Chamberlain, Joe and Ann Altalagana and Attorneys Michael Fenton, Ellen Freyman, and Jay Latore, Kip Divito, Stephen Sobey, Sylvester Bhembe, Dan Gustafson and David Vivian from Verizon.

PLANNER'S REPORT: 7:00 p.m.

1. Responded and talked to abutters to the proposed Verizon cell tower application.
2. Received many inquires to #302 Granville Road as a public road is required.
3. Question on access to open space, should it be open to all or just subdivision members on Greens East.
4. American Inn questions regarding use and modification by potential new owners.
5. Advertisement for Sub Committee on channel 15 and Westfield Evening News. Town staff: Kyle Scott, Building Department, Randy Brown, DPW, Chief Anderson, Fire Department, Rhett Bannish, Police Department, Doug Moglin, Select Board, Pat O'Diorne, resident, have all volunteered for committee.

6. Questions for proposed land use and subdivision of property on 38 Mort Vining Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 7:10 p.m.

None

APPOINTMENTS:

7:15 p.m. Verizon Cell Tower Hearing

Mr. Doherty designated Jessica Thornton, Associate Member as a voting member. Attorney Michael Fenton stated that he would make a brief introductory about the Verizon site and then turn the presentation over to Sylvester Bhembe from Hudson Design Group who would share the screen with design drawings and then he would have Jay Latorre speak, an expert on radio frequency for Verizon. Mr. Doherty disclosed that he lives at 16 Lexington Circle, which is on the far side of this circle but not an abutter, an abutter to an abutter or an interested party, and after seeking legal advice from town counsel he felt that he is able to vote on this decision because he has no conflict of interest. Mr. Phelps asked Mr. Doherty if the abutters were notified via certified mail. It was stated that they were not but that proper notice was provided as per typical hearing guidelines. Mr. Slessler interjected that it's not required that the mail go out certified as per the state and that we had not received any mail returned undeliverable. Mr. Phelps stated that under Chapter 185-23.1(E) (1) (j) abutters were required to receive mail via certified letter. Mr. Doherty asked Attorney Michael Fenton about his position on the issue, and he stated that he would like to proceed with the hearing regardless of this. Mr. Doherty felt that it would be advantageous to proceed with meeting since no prejudice was shown and no prejudice would occur. If someone was not at meeting, they would have access to the recording on the town website, speak at the next meeting, and in the meantime, we would send out certified mail to abutters again. A few residents spoke up and felt that procedure should be followed to the exact protocol. After much discussion Mr. Doherty decided it would be best to send out certified letters to abutters and continue the hearing to the next meeting on October 6, 2020 at 7:15p.m., deferring all substantive discussion on the application until the next meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Phelps and **SECONDED** by Mr. Spina to continue the public hearing to 7:15 p.m. on October 6, 2020.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Doherty, yes Mr. Phelps, yes Mr. Sutton, yes Mr. Spina, yes
Mrs. Thornton, yes

The motion passed unanimously.

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

8:00 p.m.

Discussion

The Planning Board discussed 275 Granville Rd and they are not interested in purchasing it.

There was a discussion of sending a letter of support for the update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

MOTION was made by Mr. Phelps and **SECONDED** by Mr. Spina to approve the Open Space letter and have Michael write up a letter to be sent to Conservation and read at next meeting.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Doherty, yes	Mr. Phelps, yes	Mr. Sutton, yes	Mr. Spina, yes
Mrs. Thornton, yes			

The motion was passed unanimously.

MOTION was made by Mr. Phelps and **SECONDED** by Mr. Spina to approve September 8, 2020 Minutes and use Electronic Signatures.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Doherty, yes	Mr. Phelps, yes	Mr. Sutton, yes	Mr. Spina, yes
Mrs. Thornton, yes			

The motion was passed unanimously.

Being no further business to be brought before the Board, **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Sutton and **SECONDED** by Mr. Spina to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Doherty, yes	Mr. Phelps, yes	Mr. Sutton, yes	Mr. Spina, yes
Mrs. Thornton, yes			

The motion was passed unanimously.

Due to future meetings being held via Zoom, the meeting minutes will be approved via electronic signature on 10/6/20

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Lightcap

The Next Meeting is October 6, 2020

