Town of Leyden, MA

Planning Board / Board of Selectman Joint Meeting

Minutes of Meeting: 9/9/20

Attendees: Art Baker, Jim Brodeur, David Curtis, Warren Facey, Jeff Kneipp, Billy Glabach

Absent:

Call To Order: With the Board not currently having a Chairman, the meeting was called to order @ 7:02pm by Clerk, Art Baker who acted as the Chairman.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting held on 3/11/20 due to COVID were passed out but only Art was at the last meeting so a 1 person vote ensued and was approved as written. No discussion occurred.

Review Correspondence: Peter Tusinski was appointed by the Board of Selectman to be an alternate member to the Planning Board. Look at length of term in State Regulations.

Affirm Emily Yazwinski’s appointment with the SelectBoard: Jeff Kniepp spoke about how Emily was the only applicant before appointing her without the proper process. A discussion was had that the BOS needs to fill their vacant spot left by the resignation of Lance Fritz. Jeff said they are actively looking and that they have advertised it in the last 3 months of the Leyden Newsletter. It was acknowledged by all that the process used to previously appoint Emily was not done properly. In addition, through an email from Art to the BOS, Rob Snedeker submitted a request for consideration previously but the BOS did not entertain it because Rob himself had not addressed the BOS. Rob has since submitted a request to be considered for Bob Snow’s replacement position. Jeff Kneipp made a motion and seconded by Jim to appoint Emily Yazwinski to the vacant position on the Board. Art made a motion to appoint Rob Snedeker to the vacant position on the Board. A discussion took place regarding both motions. Emily spoke of her experience in the public sector in Deerfield on the building committee and the Greenfield Farmer’s exchange Board. Rob spoke of his experiences and history on the current Planning Board. A vote occurred for the nomination of Emily which ended in a 3-3 tie with Jim, Jeff & Billy in favor & Art, David and Warren opposed but Warren, after seeing the tied vote, elected to change his vote to abstain. A vote then occurred for Rob Snedeker which ended in a 2-3-1 vote with Art & David in favor and Billy, Jeff & Jim opposed with Warren abstaining. A new motion was made by Jim seconded by Jeff to nominate Emily again because Warren changed his vote. Art closed nominations.

This vote passed 3 in favor (Jeff, Billy & Jim), 2 against (Art & David) & 1 abstain (Warren).

Reorganize Board With new members:

Chairman: Jim nominated David, seconded by Warren but during discussion David announced that due to his job which requires a lot of travel, he would not be able to make the commitment necessary to fulfill the position. Art nominated Jim, seconded by David and a 3-0 vote in favor occurred. Emily was unable to vote at this time until she can be sworn in.

Special Permit: 107 Brattleboro Road - Although not officially submitted, Elizabeth attended and preliminarily discussed the details of converting Barton’s Garage into a studio for a wood shop to be occupied as living space as well. No full time residence is allowed at that property. Need to find out: is it still commercial? what is Jim Hawkins referring to with him deeming it commercial & talking to Peter Tuzinski on past history at this property. Rob Snedeker discussed past history about this property on the Planning Board.

Other Business Not Reasonably anticipated: None

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 @ 7:00pm @ the New Town Hall/old Pearl Rhodes School on Brattleboro Road.

Adjournment: A motion was made by David and seconded by Art to adjourn at 8:54pm and a unanimous affirmative vote followed.

Respectively Submitted, Art Baker, Clerk