

PLANNING BOARD

January 25, 2024

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Tim Bray (chair), Jen Roberts, Ken Jacques, Mike Howard, Dan Saulnier, Poul Heilmann and John Trachy (alternate).

Absent: Darrin Patten

Also present: Steve Dzubak

Chairman Bray opened the hearing at 7:02 pm

John Trachy asked if there should be something to provide clarification or an explanation of the changes. He is concerned that the residents will not understand what exactly they are voting for. No one attended the hearings and because of that they won't know why the changes are being made. Jen Roberts shared that it doesn't matter when meetings are held (afternoons or evenings) very few if ever does anyone ever attend. Poul Heilmann volunteered to write up something to be offered to voters prior to voting that will explain the changes.

Chairman Bray passed out a listing of the documents, applications and instruction sheets the Planning Board has control over. He questioned how the Board felt about adopting each document at the next meeting so that there was a starting date for each going forward. Ken Jacques shared that he felt the documents have revision dates which would indicate changes the Board made following the adoption of the document which is why some have adoption dates and some have revision dates.

The Board moved on to discuss the Driveway Access/Permit Application. The Driveway Regulations and the Zoning Ordinance have discrepancies between the two. The Board determined that the Regulations over rule the Ordinance and that the Regulations can be changed internally by the Board where changes to the Zoning Ordinance must be voted on by the Town. A change to the Zoning Ordinance for next year would be to remove anything dealing with driveways and make a reference in section 6.21 to refer to the Driveway Regulations. A member of the Board questioned if a driveway design/request/condition does not meet the Town Regulations, or if the Road Agent doesn't feel comfortable with approving, what happens then. At that point the Planning Board will get involved. The property owner may need to hire an engineer, wetland scientist among other professionals. The Board moved through the application/permit making a few changes to which John Trachy will make and supply to the Board for acceptance at the February meeting.

Ken Jacques shared with the Board the concern expressed by the Budget Committee of the increase in the fee for the Circuit Rider. Was the Board happy with the services they were receiving from the UVLSPC? Overall the Board is happy. Chairman Bray expressed his support to continue to use UVLSRPC. Mike Howard agreed.

Chairman Bray closed the hearing at 8:30 pm.

Mike Howard moved to submit the Zoning Amendment changes to Town Meeting for voting by the residents of Springfield on March 12, 2024. Dan Saulnier seconded the motion, Board unanimously voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Butcher