

Planning Board Minutes

Date: April 26, 2017

Time: 7:25

Present:

X	J. Hargraves	Absent	A. Pease
X	J. Lindquist	X	W. Stacy
X	A. Leonard		

Also attending: Citizens attending the public hearings.

Documents:

We signed the ANR for Alan Murray, Richard Murray, Kenneth Murray, and Ronald Murray. Property address is 556 Mason Rd. Book 46730, Page 351. Assessors Map 4, Parcel 6. Applicants are seeking to create 2 lots.

Minutes:

AL moved to approve the minutes of April 12, 2017. JH 2nd. Unanimously approved.

7:45 Opened the Public Hearing on the Associate Board Member warrant article. Six citizens present. Board explained the purpose and need for the bylaw – Ch. 40a, Section 9 of the Mass General Laws states that cities and towns may provide for an “associate member to sit on the board for the purposes of acting on a special permit application in the case of absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest, on the part of any member of the planning board...” This is important because the board must have at least the same four members present at every meeting when working on a subdivision. If the same minimum four are not present at every meeting, the subdivision must be approved (constructive approval). Recently the Board was at risk for granting constructive approval on a subdivision due to absence of a fourth member.

The Board answered questions of clarification. The citizens present understood and agreed with the concept of appointing an associate member who would only participate in subdivision rulings.

8:00 AL moved to close the Hearing. WS 2nd. Unanimously approved.

8:00 Opened the Public Hearing on the Temporary Marijuana Moratorium warrant article. Eight citizens present. Attendees were given a copy of the moratorium language as printed in the warrant. We explained the problems, as we saw them, with the warrant article to permit recreational marijuana in town, and explained the need for a moratorium. The Board was given a copy of the Initiative Petition that was voted in statewide last November, 2016. One person spoke in favor of permitting marijuana facilities in town, another spoke against them, but all seemed to understand the value of placing a temporary moratorium while the state works out the legal details of providing cultivation and sale of recreational marijuana.

8:25 AL moved to close the Hearing. WS 2nd. Unanimously approved.

The Board agreed to go forward with both articles. Jim will write the Report for the Moratorium. Jeanie will write the Report for the Associate Member. Didn't really review the other two reports, although we agreed to recommend passing over or voting down the Marijuana article, and to recommend that the TM decide on the VCCRD.

Adjourn: 8:45

Submitted by Jeanie Lindquist, Executive Secretary