

Conway Planning Board (PB)

August 13, 2020

Minutes – Meeting by Zoom

Members Present: Beth Girshman (Chair), Jennifer Mullins (Vice-Chair), Mary McClintock, Bill Moebius; Susan Fentin; Joseph Strzegowski (associate member)

Other attendees: Alexis Fedorjaczenko (Staff)

Location: Remote by Zoom (phone/video) in accordance with memo from Town Administrator dated March 17, 2020 (“Logistics for Committees During the COVID-19 Emergency”)

Meeting Called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Motion by Susan to approve the meeting minutes of July 19 as presented, seconded by Jen. Motion passes 5-0-0.
2. Joe’s appointment as PB associate
 - a. Joe will be officially appointed to the Planning Board. It is a non-voting membership with the flexibility to be assigned voting rights when an alternate is needed.
 - b. Motion by Mary to appoint Joe as an associate member; seconded by Susan. Motion passes 5-0-0.
3. Jen Mullins’ appointment as Vice Chair (invoice signing privileges/agenda)
 - a. Beth explained that Jen will need invoice signing privileges in case there is something while Beth is out of town, and that she will a previous example to Jen.
 - b. Motion by Mary that Jen be appointed as Vice Chair and that this includes invoice signing privileges and duties for the agenda as needed; seconded by Susan. Motion passes, 5-0-0.
4. Conway rep to Franklin County regional planning board – Joe
 - a. Motion by Mary to appoint Joe as the Conway representative to the Franklin Regional Planning Board in his role as associate member of the PB; seconded by Jen. Motion passes 5-0-0.
5. Response to Sue Bridge re: potential tiny house building project
 - a. Beth worked with Joe to respond. If anything else comes in she will share it.
6. Master plan – potential next steps – responses from FRCOG re: survey
 - Beth received the following input regarding doing a master plan: Expensive. Takes a minimum of 1-2 years and could include redoing a survey, visioning, outreach, public input, etc. Suggested to focus on aspects of the plan rather than a whole new master plan; to have a general meeting rather than surveys; and to look at existing plans and see what’s relevant and applicable.

- The PB discussed doing a meeting over Zoom. Mary said access / participation would be difficult for some people.
 - Susan suggested updating any facts that have become out of date.
 - Mary pointed out the many impacts of Covid that can change the picture. Joe added that an update could be very time-consuming and to consider the balance with other projects.
7. Solar overlay district – questions and concerns (Beth)
 - a. Mary showed a map of the solar overlap district. There was discussion about whether the makeup of the district can be changed. Beth Mary looked up the contact information and Susan agreed to contact the Green Communities Coordinator for Western Mass, Mark Rabinsky, Phone: (413) 755-2232, Mobile: (617) 823-4588
 8. Affordable housing, and Zoning by-laws – continued discussion
 - a. Mary explained rental assistance funding available and options for the town.
 - b. There was discussion about tiny houses. Beth will take a look at other bylaws.
 9. Zoning use table revision – No discussion
 10. Multi-hazard action plan – No discussion
 11. Mail/email – who will pick up mail while Beth is away?
 - a. Susan will pick up the mail and will report to the PB. Discussion about what can be shared and discussed via email.
 - b. Email from abutter to Nexamp project.
 - c. Email from FRCOG regarding South River Corridor project. Beth will offer to Kimberly the dates of September 3 and 17.
 12. Old Business – None
 13. New business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance
 - a. Alexis will update the website to say “Recent Decisions” on the PB page and will add the decisions for Nexamp; Roaring Glen Farms; and Vertex.
 14. Schedule, Planning Board meetings – Review of things to do while Beth is away.
 Generally, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
 Fall Schedule: Sept 3, Sept 17, Oct 1, Oct 15, Nov 5, Nov 19,

Motion by Susan to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bill. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Remote meeting concluded at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Alexis Fedorjaczenko