

**Planning Board Minutes  
Memorial Town Hall  
August 3, 2022**

Members Present: Chair Stephanie Slys, Jimmy Tarr, Bob Wagner, David Bell

Attendees: Bob Flaherty, Kim Baker, Jon Tobin, Ellen Pazek, Jenna Paszek, Mike Paszek, Peter Lane, Jeremy Cotton

Chair opens meeting at 6:01 PM

Public Forum

Mike Karpinski is calling in from Oregon. His mother owns property at 52 North Street and is looking to add onto an abutting lot that the family owns to make it one large tax lot. He is calling just to inquire about the proper steps to get this done. The Board suggests that he hire a land surveyor to map out the delineation of the lots. This needs to come before the Board for an "Approval not Required" for the family to register this proposed larger lot. This needs to be a formal discussion that is posted on an agenda. Mr. Karpinski agrees to this and will be back in contact to get on the next agenda.

No other public comment.

Chair Slys moves up informal discussion on potential Fire Training facility.

The Hatfield Fire Association is in the early stages of proposing a Fire Training facility off West Street. The purpose of the agenda item is to notify the Town that this is on the Planning Board's radar and that there have not been any formal plans that have been presented by the Fire Association. Fire Chief Bob Flaherty joins the meeting in person. He verifies that this is in the very early stages and that a formal proposal has not been made. He invites the residents to a Public Forum on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station to address some of the concerns the residents may have. Fire Chief does confirm that this site is Town owned property.

Discussion with Jeremy Cotton on 12 Elm Street potential SPA amendment

Peter Lane, Attorney for Mr. Cotton is present for the meeting. Mr. Cotton is interested in amending his Special Permit, which was granted back in 2016, to allow him and his business to operate a firewood processing business and storage. Mr. Cotton would like to extend the operating hours and be allowed to operate a sawmill. The Board has concerns over recent noise complaints. Mr. Cotton addresses the most recent noise complaint, which took place on Memorial Day. He apologizes and takes full responsibility for the violation. In addition to this recent complaint there have been previous noise complaints and other concerns. During a site visit, Enforcement Officer, Kyle Scott documented sawmill equipment that was being used, which was not allowed under the current Special Permit. Small discussion on this development. The Board suggests that Mr. Cotton submit a Special Permit Application to seek to amend the current SPA. They do make it clear that amending the current Special Permit would be a tough ask for the Board to review, siting neighbors' concerns and violations to the current Special Permit. Further discussion on the current operations. The Board would like to see an accurate assessment of the volume of work that would be proposed and new hours of operation. Small discussion on a potential sound study and site/field visit. Mr. Lane believes a site visit would be a good idea for the Board to come in person and hear the equipment for themselves. The Board agrees to this. Mr. Lane and Mr. Cotton will work on submitting a Special Permit application for an amendment.

#### Board Discussion/Virtual meetings

Chair Slysyz confirms that the State House has voted to extend remote/virtual option for Municipal meetings. It is up to each board and committee to decide if they want to continue using a virtual option for board members and the public. Board members will be able to participate in the meetings through June of 2023. The Planning Board agrees to continue having this option for accessibility.

Bob Wagner announces that he is moving out of Hatfield soon. He does not want to have on foot out the door while on the Planning Board during this process. September's meeting will be his last Planning Board meeting as a member. Bob Wagner term ends in May of 2023. His resignation will give an opening on the Planning Board.

Small discussion on appointing a new member. The Planning Board could propose a name to the Select Board and at a joint meeting that individual would be appointed as a member throughout the rest of Bob Wagner's term.

Chair Slysyz and the rest of the Board acknowledges the commitment Bob Wagner has given the Planning Board throughout the years and how much of a loss this will be to the community.

Chair Slysyz updates the Board on obtaining and hiring a part time planner. She has been in discussion with Town Administrator Marlene Michonski about the hiring process. The position would probably be roughly 5 hours a week, or as needed. Ideal candidate would be a possible local graduate student or retiree with some sort of planning background.

#### Approval of meeting minutes.

Jimmy Tarr makes a motion to approve the minutes from May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Bob Wagner seconds, Motion passes.

Bob Wagner makes a motion to approve the minutes from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, with corrections, Jimmy Tarr seconds, Motion passes

Next Scheduled meeting is September 7, 2022

Jimmy Tarr makes a motion to close the meeting. David Bell seconds. Motion passes.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:05 PM