

## PLANNING BOARD

DATE: May 28, 2020

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Zoom Virtual Meeting

FOR: Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Brandee Nelson, Chair; Malcolm Fick; Jonathan Hankin; Jeremy Higa;

Pedro Pachano

Garfield Reed, Associate Member

Chris Rembold, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Planning and Community  
Development

Also present for the Zoom Meeting: Kirt Mayland; Eileen Mooney; Nan Wile; Michael Wise; Michelle Loubert; Ed Abrahams; Leigh Davis, Tom, Tom Doyle

Ms. Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. A roll call of those present was taken:

Mr. Fick, present; Mr. Hankin, present; Mr. Pachano, present; Mr. Reed, present; Ms. Nelson, present;  
Mr. Higa not yet present.

Ms. Nelson read the information from the agenda regarding the Governor Baker's order regarding suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 virus. She also read the information regarding recording of the meeting.

### **FORM A'S: 671 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD**

Kirt Mayland was present to discuss the Form A application submitted to Mr. Rembold for a parcel of land located on the east side of Stockbridge Road aka Route 7. The division of land was also discussed at the previous Planning Board meeting on May 14, 2020.

Mr. Mayland said he sent the plan to Mr. Rembold showing the new property lines and a second plan showing the solar array with the setback requirements. The new lot contains 10.67 acres of land. The remaining land consists of 48.94 acres of land.

Mr. Mayland said frontage was created for the new lot. The lot is in conformance with the setback requirements.

Ms. Nelson noted that Site Plan Review was previously granted and recently approved for a second time.

Mr. Hankin made a motion to endorse the plan, Mr. Fick seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Fick, aye; Mr. Hankin, aye; Mr. Pachano, aye; Ms. Nelson, aye.

Mr. Rembold said he would endorse the plan on behalf of the Board. Mr. Mayland will provide additional application material including the fee before receiving the mylar.

### **MINUTES: MAY 14, 2020**

Mr. Hankin made a motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2020 as amended, Mr. Fick seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Fick, aye; Mr. Hankin, aye; Mr. Pachano, aye; Ms. Nelson, aye.

Mr. Higa joined the meeting at 6:06 P.M. however he was disconnected.

**TOWN MEETING DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Rembold said the Selectboard voted to proceed with the Annual Town Meeting on June 22 but the meeting will be held on one night only and only financial articles will be dealt with. He said the second meeting scheduled for June 25 that was proposed to primarily deal with zoning articles will not be held at this time. Mr. Rembold said the warrant is the longest he has seen and he was not sure how the process will proceed with the 52 article warrant.

Moderator, Michael Wise, said it will be up to the Selectboard how they will proceed but indications are that they will set a date to deal with the remaining articles. It is not clear what that specific time and date will be.

Mr. Rembold said if the zoning is not dealt with by September a new public hearing will be required as the public hearing has to be held within 6 months of the ATM.

Ms. Shaw said the first night of the public hearing was held on March 12

Mr. Wise said they will need to schedule the next night of the ATM within 6 months of the time frame.

Ms. Loubert said the public hearing was continued from March 12<sup>th</sup> to March 26, 2020

Mr. Pachano asked what the format will be.

Mr. Wise said he is not sure. He said it will be at the high school, perhaps outside.

Mr. Reed asked why they are only doing one night.

Mr. Rembold said the Selectboard has concerns about an indoor meeting and the number of people congregating. He said the Selectboard has concerns about people feeling safe and having a large gathering of people two nights in one week.

Mr. Rembold said it is difficult to organize a meeting outside. He said the Selectboard would prefer to have the remainder of the meeting at a later and safer time.

Mr. Reed said he is not sure why there hasn't been better planning to have both meetings. He said there has been enough time to plan.

Mr. Rembold said there have been many unknowns in the planning process.

Ms. Nelson said the decision about what is essential and what isn't is very disappointing. She said the public will need to be engaged a little more.

**TOWN PLANNER'S REPORT:**

There was no Town Planner's report.

**BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES/ISSUES & CONCERNS:**

Mr. Pachano said he serves on a development committee for BRPC. The group will have a chat session on the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday. He said any ideas for topic for discussion will be welcome.

Mr. Pachano said the annual training session for new board members provided by BRPC will be held in a different format yet to be decided. He said would send along information as he receives it.

Mr. Pachano said a town in New York State is opening their streets to allow restaurants to provide outdoor dining. He asked if the Board wanted to make a recommendation to the Selectboard to allow restaurants in Great Barrington to provide for similar outdoor dining.

Selectboard member, Ed Abrahams, said Town Staff is looking into it. He said there are alcohol and traffic issues that need to be considered.

Ms. Nelson thanked Mr. Pachano for bringing up the idea. She said she had discussed the idea with Mr. Rembold about a brainstorming session to work through ideas.

Mr. Pachano said this is a short-term problem that doesn't require changes for the long term. He said it is important to figure out how to use Town land.

Ms. Nelson said drive-thru pick up could be allowed.

Selectboard member, Leigh Davis said she has inquired about outdoor entertainment such as movie projection. She said regulations around food trucks might be relaxed.

Mr. Rembold said any suggestions from the Board should be e-mailed directly to him and not sent out as a group e-mail.

Mr. Reed suggested possibly having a restaurant week with checks of how many people go in and out of places.

Mr. Hankin said he thinks revisions to the B-3 zone are on everyone's minds. He suggested putting some thoughts together.

Ms. Nelson asked if something new, such as the B-3 zoning, could be added to the ATM.

Mr. Rembold said theoretically you could. A draft would have to be sent to the Selectboard who would refer the item back for a public hearing.

Mr. Higa said that is a good idea. He said the Board needs to start working on zoning for next year's ATM.

Ms. Nelson asked if Mr. Hankin and Mr. Pachano could work on the B-3 language.

Mr. Pachano said he doesn't have any language put together but he has drawings to show the issues.

Mr. Fick thanked Mr. Abrahams for clarification regarding COVID-19 cases in Great Barrington. He said he would like to see more information about what is happening in Town. He said the information that was provided was very helpful.

Mr. Abrahams said there are meetings twice a week with Town Hall Staff and first responders. He said they are the ones doing the work and staying on top of what is happening in Town. He said they are amazing.

**CITIZEN'S SPEAK:**

Nan Wile said perhaps a "choreograph" of meals can be organized. She said anything to make the opening more feasible without congestion.

There were no other public comments.

Ms. Nelson adjourned without objection at 6:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly L. Shaw  
Planning Board Secretary