

PLANNING BOARD

DATE: April 14, 2022

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Zoom Virtual Meeting

FOR: Special Meeting/Public Hearing

PRESENT: Brandee Nelson, Chair; Malcom Fick; Jonathan Hankin; Jeremy Higa
Chris Rembold, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Planning and Development

Ms. Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. She read the opening statement, revised by Governor Baker on February 12, 2022, from the agenda. She said the meeting was being recorded. Ms. Nelson also read Section 241-1 of the Town Code.

She called for roll call attendance:

Mr. Hankin, present; Mr. Fick, present; Mr. Higa, present; Ms. Nelson, present; Mr. Pachano was absent.

FORMS A:

Brian Koczela, from BEK Associates Land Surveyors was present with a Form A application on behalf of Mark and Pamela Caiola and Gregory Pierce for a parcel of land located in Great Barrington. The parcel is split by the Town line between Great Barrington and New Marlborough. The parcel is not to be considered a separate building lot and it is to be combined with the parcel in New Marlborough that provides the frontage for the property.

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

Roll call vote: Mr. Hankin, aye; Mr. Fick, aye; Mr. Higa, aye; Ms. Nelson, aye

MINUTES: MARCH 31, 2022

Mr. Hankin made a motion to approve the minutes of March 31, 2022 as amended, Mr. Fick seconded.

Roll call vote: Mr. Hankin, aye; Mr. Fick, aye; Mr. Higa, aye; Ms. Nelson, aye

AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Ms. Nelson said she doesn't have anything new.

Mr. Rembold said BRPC awarded the Town DLTA funds. He said the funds will allow for BRPC to work with Town staff to assist with creation of housing as well as incentivizing affordable housing. He said the point will be to go above and beyond what the Board has put in place to increase housing opportunities.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES/ISSUES & CONCERNS:

Mr. Hankin said volunteers are needed for DAC.

Ms. Nelson said she has talked to many people trying to find someone for the associate position.

Mr. Hankin said the Housing Sub Committee had an interesting meeting that included a conversation with a local entrepreneur. He said Josh Irwin owns a couple of restaurants. Mr. Irwin has had trouble hiring staff. He will be purchasing a local Bed & Breakfast to provide housing for workers.

Mr. Hankin said he is not sure there is a place in the bylaws that addresses single room occupancy. He said the idea is a great use of the property.

Mr. Higa said the idea is for there to be less than 30 day leases on the rooms. He said if the special permit has to be amended sprinklers would have to be installed making the project cost prohibitive as the rents would have to be higher.

TOWN PLANNER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rembold said Gwendolyn VanSant would be presenting CARE training, Climate Action, Resilience and Equity. He said the issues being discussed are becoming more important all the time.

Ms. VanSant was present with Stephanie Wright. A Power Point presentation began at 6:17 P.M and concluded at 7:44P.M.

CITIZEN'S SPEAK TIME:

No one spoke.

Having concluded their business, Ms. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly L. Shaw

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Planning Board Secretary