

Becket Planning Board
Approved Meeting Minutes
November 13th, 2013

Planning Board Members Present: Robert Ronzio (Chairperson), Ann Krawet, Howard Lerner (Alternate), Martin Schlanger (Clerk), Beth VanNess (Asst. Clerk).

Planning Board Members Absent: Gale LaBelle, Martin Schlanger.

Members of the public present: William Elovirta, Jeanne Pryor, Bruce Garlow, Angela Hilton, Ed Gibson.

Meeting opens at: 7: 07 pm

Chairperson , Robert Ronzio, opens the meeting and announces that agendas are on the table for anyone who wants them. He advises that the meeting is being held in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A and the By-laws of the Town of Becket. A decision to issue a special permit requires a minimum of four positive votes from a five member board. The board has 90 days to make a decision after the close of a public hearing and 14 days to file paperwork with the Town Clerk once a decision is made. Any Appeals of decisions can be made only to the court and must be made pursuant to Section 17, MGL 40A as amended, and must be filed within 20 days after the date of filing of the decision with the Town Clerk. Mr. Ronzio asks if there is anyone who is going to make a video or an audio recording of the meeting; no recordings are announced. Lastly Mr. Ronzio informs everyone present that no person shall address this meeting without the permission of the chair and that all people, at the request of the chair shall be silent. Mr. Ronzio advises all present that it is the intention of this board to proceed with the posted agenda in the order in which they are listed, and again reminds everyone that agendas are on the table for anyone who wants one.

Mr. Ronzio dispenses with the reading of the Open Meeting Law, as he is requested to do so by audience members present.

Approval of October 9th , 2013 Meeting Minutes- Ms. VanNess makes a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as presented, Ms. Krawet seconds motion; Unanimous Approval.

Public Participation- None at this time.

New Business- Informal Discussion- Medical Marijuana- Chairperson, Mr. Robert Ronzio opens up this portion of the meeting, inviting anyone who would like to be heard to please speak. He advises that the Planning Board is interested in finding out how the people in Town feel about having a Medical Marijuana Bylaw and what their general thoughts on this matter may be. Mr. Ronzio also advises that this issue has gone before the Attorney General and that some towns have already put moratoriums in place. Mr. Ronzio states that the only way to control this matter is through the writing of a bylaw.

Mr. Bill Elovirta states that he really does not want to see a dispensary in the Town of Becket. Ms. Krawet explains that she has been doing a lot of research and that it appears as though as long as we have some reasonable rules in place, we should be fine in implementing a code. Mr. Ronzio has handouts that he has prepared given out to all present. He also passes around a draft copy of a proposed medical marijuana bylaw, reviewing some of the requirements, and definitions explained within. Mr. Ronzio explains the process of writing a bylaw, along with the public hearing process, etc. Mr. Ronzio takes a moment to answer questions from the public present. Bill asks if the Planning Board will have time to complete the bylaw process and have it ready for the Annual Town Meeting; Bob advises that they should have it complete in that time frame. Mr. Gibson asks about homegrown medical marijuana growers, Mr. Ronzio advises that this only addresses commercial dispensaries and facilities. After a quick review of the Bylaw in hand, Bill states that it seems as though it is a real restrictive Bylaw. Jeanne adds that maybe the Bylaw should clearly limit the number of plants that one could grow. Bill states that it is his strong recommendation to look into the ‘homegrown use’ as well.

Informal Discussion- Abandoned Lots- Map 216 Lot 728- Mr. Ronzio gives a brief history of the property and explains a complaint that he had written referencing this property that was then submitted to the Selectmen, The Board of Health, The Town Administrator and the Planning Board. Bob further explains that despite what the owner has reported, there was only ever one trailer on the property, Mr. Ed Gibson advises that it is currently out to bid and that he will keep Bob updated as needed.

Old Business- Large Wind Turbine Subcommittee- Ms. Krawet reports on the progress of the subcommittee, briefly explaining the reason the subcommittee was formed. Ms. Krawet goes on to explain that they have made some minor changes as well as cleaned up some of the language and some grey areas that appeared in the existing bylaw.

Ms. Krawet reads aloud the official motion that was made at the last subcommittee meeting, Mr. Robert Gross makes a motion that the Subcommittee recommends to the planning board that they accept the changes to the Large Wind Energy System bylaw as presented. Secondly the subcommittee recommends that a moratorium on Large Wind Turbine permits be put in place pending the findings of the recently appointed State Committee studying Wind Turbines. The Committee further recommends that the Planning Board presents both recommendations at the next Town Meeting.

After reading aloud the motion, Ms. Krawet goes on to report on some of the proposed health risks and negative impact that such turbines are causing in various locations where they exist. Ann advises that we really need to have a moratorium in place as she briefly reads aloud the changes that were made, explains the reason for these changes, and answers questions and concerns as they arise in the discussion.

Mr. Ronzio suggests that maybe they should consider putting the bylaw forward at the annual meeting and maybe put the moratorium on the back burner for now. Ms. Krawet thanks Mr. Ronzio for all of his hard work and efforts as she advises all present of his dedication and hard work he has done for this committee.

Lastly, Ms. Krawet advises that she and Ms. Wallington will be working on the changes that also need to be made for the small wind turbine bylaw, adding she would also like to have it ready for the Town Meeting.

Planning Board to complete the drafting of the rules , fee schedules, etc. for the SPGA, pursuant to and in accordance with section 9.3.7 of the Town of Becket's Zoning Bylaws.

Mr. Lerner makes a motion to approve Bob's recommendation from the last month's meeting, Ms. VanNess seconds motion; Unanimous Approval.

Bob agrees to email all Planning Board Members a final draft for their review.

Correspondence- Read and Reviewed. Planning Board members briefly review an "In town Notification" sent to the Planning board from the ZBA for their review. Mr. Lerner makes a motion for Mr. Ronzio to write a letter to Mr. Steve Turner; YMCA advising Mr. Turner that it has come to the Planning Board's attention that there has been construction started on the proposed sight, etc. Ann seconds motion; Unanimous Approval. Mr. Ronzio agrees to draft a letter and send it to the YMCA expressing their concern.

Budget-Read and Reviewed.

Any other business to come before the Board- None.

Ms. VanNess makes a motion to adjourn, Ms. Krawet seconds motion; Meeting is adjourned at 9:30.

Schedule next meeting for Wednesday December 11th, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hunt
Administrative Assistant

Signed _____ Date _____
Robert Ronzio

Signed _____ Date _____
Howard Lerner

Signed _____ Date _____
Beth VanNess

Signed _____ Date _____
Ann Krawet

