

BELLINGHAM PLANNING BOARD
TOWN HALL - PLANNING BOARD ROOM
BELLINGHAM, MASS.

October 4, 1968. PUBLIC HEARING re PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
ZONING BY-LAWS - HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the chairman. The Housing Authority is seeking Planning Board recommendation of changes to the Zoning By-Laws as requested. Notice as it appeared in the newspapers was read by the clerk.

Maurice Morin, Chairman of the Housing Commission, informed those present that at a Town Meeting residents unanimously voted to construct Public Housing for the elderly. Although the parcel selected has only about 74 feet frontage, a proposed road runs through the entire project with all building requirements to be met. The Commission requests that the frontage be varied since the tract consists of about four acres and an additional 150 feet of frontage will be obtained from the Almacs within three weeks.

Attending the meeting was Atty. Eugene L. Tougas, representing Edward Cameron of Blackstone Street. Tougas objected to the Public Hearing Notice and stated the Planning Board is not allowed to make changes to the Zoning By-Laws only to recommend them. This he said however, was not the point of issue, neither was the question of frontage. He asked that the Zoning Laws be uniform and stated that the proposed exemption of Public Housing from the multi-family regulations would be a "classic case of discrimination" and referred to Section 2 of Chapter 40A, General Laws. He asked that they not recommend the changes as requested because if so done, "no citizen in the commonwealth has safety in his investments".

Atty. Bernard Biron, represents the Housing Authority, stated the proposed housing is an asset to the town such as schools and hospitals are. Tougas said the same consideration should be given private industry which will pay taxes. The board asked Tougas if he was representing any other client. Only Cameron he replied.

Parisi had several comments to make as to the possibility that this allotment may jeopardize home owners in the town; he expressed confidence in the Commonwealth and its laws pertaining to street and health requirements; the public housing for the elderly was approved at a town meeting which proves the townspeople want it; there is no issue as to Tax Revenue since the townspeople are willing and want to help the elderly in the town, not seeking tax revenue from this source.

There being no further discussion, Parisi made a motion to go into Executive Session for preparation of a written

77
C.D.
RMB
MSP
D6

(continued) October 4, 1968.

statement to be submitted at the Town Meeting. Vote was seconded and unanimous.

During the EXECUTIVE SESSION a motion was made by Hannigan to approve the amendments to the Zoning By-Laws as requested by the Housing Commission. Seconded by Daigle. Vote unanimous.

Board members adjourned to the up-stairs Town Hall for the Town Meeting.

Town Meeting was subsequently postponed due to the lack of a quorum, until Monday October 7, 1968.

APPROVED AS READ:

Francis J. Piro

Gerald L. Daigle

Roland H. Beauregard

Michelle S. Piro

Timothy H. Hargis

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Giard
Joan M. Giard, Clerk