

SEEKONK PLANNING BOARD
Public Hearing - Regular Meeting
February 11, 2014

Present: Ch. Abelson, S. Foulkes, D. Viera, R. Horsman, L. Dunn
R. Bennett
J. Hansen, Town Planner
Absent: M. Bourque with cause
7:02PM Ch. Abelson opened the meeting

Public Hearing- Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Zoning Bylaw Reorganization

Ch. Abelson opened the Public Hearing and read the order of business.

A motion was made by R. Horsman seconded by R. Bennett to waive the reading of the legal notice.

Introduction of Town Planner and Board Members

J. Hansen summarized the Zoning Bylaw Reorganization was a project the PB took on a year ago with consultant Horsley Whitten and gave a brief over view of the reorganization and noted that there weren't any substantive changes proposed. The reorganization was just making it a more user friendly document.

S. Foulkes commented that she would like to see the wording "formerly section ..." so it would be easier for people to understand where a certain section had been reorganized to.

J. Hansen said he could have that information available on the website and to anyone who comes in and asks for it.

A motion was made by R. Horsman and seconded by R. Bennett and unanimously

VOTED: to close the Public Hearing

A motion was made by R. Horsman and seconded by D. Viera and unanimously

VOTED: to support the Zoning Bylaw Reorganization

Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Medical Marijuana Overlay District

Ch. Abelson opened the Public Hearing and read the order of business.

A motion was made by D. Viera seconded by R. Horsman to waive the reading of the legal notice.

Introduction of Town Planner and Board Members

J. Hansen summarized that this was a bylaw they have looked at several times. He noted a temporary moratorium was adopted for medical marijuana facilities at the 2013 June Town Meeting. The moratorium gave the town one year to come up with the overlay district. He noted that Kopelman & Paige drafted a boiler plate bylaw and the only input that was required by the town was where the overlay district would be located. He went on to say that over the summer the PB discussed it and thought the area in the industrial zone located in the southeastern part of town would be a good place for the district.

S. Foulkes stated if someone were to get a permit to grow plants on their property then it could be near a school noting that it doesn't have to be in the overlay district. She wondered how that would work in terms of monitoring.

J. Hansen said the Dept. of Public Health would monitor that.

A motion was made by R. Horsman and seconded by D. Viera and unanimously

VOTED: to close the Public Hearing

A motion was made by R. Horsman and seconded by L. Dunn and unanimously

VOTED: to continue discussion of the MMOD till the March PB meeting so S. Foulkes can bring in her written comments.

Discussion: Proposed Charter Amendments – Gary Sagar

G. Sagar presented the Proposed Charter Amendment

After much discussion

A motion was made by R. Horsman seconded by R. Bennett and unanimously

VOTED: that the Planning Board emphatically objected to the Proposed Charter Amendment

Discussion: Master Plan Implementation

J. Hansen summarized his recommendation going forward would be to work with the Economic Advisory Committee on the action items for economic development found on page 5 of the Master Plan. Also, as suggested by S. Foulkes, better landscaping design standards would be explored for non-residential uses, as per the Land Use section.

Approval of Minutes: 1/14/14

A motion was made by R. Horsman and seconded by D. Viera and it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve 1/14/14 Planning Board minutes.

Discussion

A motion was made by D. Viera seconded by R. Horsman and unanimously

VOTED: that the PB members and Town Planner get wooden nameplates after the April 2014 election.

Adjournment

A motion was made by R. Horsman seconded by D. Viera and it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Florice Craig