MINUTES OF WESTBOROUGH PLANNING BOARD July 12, 2016

Regular meeting of the Westborough Planning Board held in the Forbes Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Room 23 at 45 West Main Street. Members Bush, Silverberg, Diamond, Spencer and Paris were present.

Meeting dates: August 2nd and August 16th

The Minutes of June 07, 2016 and June 21, 2016 were reviewed and endorsed.

At 7:00 p.m. the Planning Board continued the Special Permit Concept Plan public hearing on the Ridings II. (See attached minutes).

At 7:30 p.m. the Planning Board met with Mr. Randy Waterman of Waterman Design on Indian Meadow Country Club Subdivision.

Chairman Brian Bush stated they are looking for a waiver from the Preliminary Plan phase and would like to proceed directly to the Definitive Plan.

Mr. Randy Waterman, Waterman Design Associates said he is here representing E.K. Parivar, LLC who wish to create a two lot commercial subdivision with a cul-de-sac at the end of Indian Meadow Road – 275 Turnpike Road. They are not proposing any new structures at this time. In the future, the owners may wish to expand the existing banquet facility to accommodate a temple of worship. Indian Meadow Road is a private way and was not built to town standards. They would like to extend the cul-de-sac to service the two other buildings. The owners are willing to bring the private way up to town requirements with adequate drainage provided. They are currently on town water and sewer. The town has a water easement across the property and roadway. The town plans on making improvements to this water line this summer. At the last meeting the applicant asked for waiver from the requirement for a Preliminary Plan submittal allowing the Applicant to move to the Definitive Plan submittal. Since there is an existing 1,000 square foot long private way and they are proposing minimal construction, they do not feel a Preliminary Plan is warranted. They are requesting a formal vote on the waiver.

Chairman Brian Bush asked the Planning Board how they feel about this waiver request.

Member Charlie Diamond said he does not believe there was an issue. We agreed to go to the Definitive Plan at the last meeting.

Member Mark Silverberg said he has no questions.

Member Bill Spencer said he has visited the site and is in agreement to let them proceed to the Definitive Plan. Just make sure that all the standards on the road are correct.

Member Tim Paris said he is fine with going to the Definitive Plan.

The Town Planner said he sees no benefit or gain by requiring them to submit a Preliminary Plan for the existing road and use that would not be provided on a Definitive Plan. He recommends that the Planning Board approve the request to waive the Preliminary Plan.

Member Mark Silverberg motioned to grant a waiver from the Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Section III.C, Preliminary Plan requiring the applicant to file a Preliminary Subdivision Plan prior to the filing of the Definitive Subdivision Plan. The motion was seconded by Member Charlie Diamond and unanimously voted.

At 8:00 p.m. the Planning Board prepared to discuss the rezoning of the Spectrum Residential Property on Oak Street.

Mr. Randy Waterman, Waterman Design Associates and Mr. Frank Height representing Spectrum said Spectrum House wishes to expand their campus buildings. Spectrum in the past purchased abutting residentially zoned land (11 acres) that was formerly part of the Lyman School. Spectrum's other property is zoned Highway Business. The zoning requires a 100 foot setback for non-residential uses in a non-residential district when it abuts a residential district. This makes it very difficult for Spectrums plan to expand its existing campus on the non-residential land. Spectrum is proposing to change the zoning of this parcel from residential to highway business. This would eliminate the zoning conflict.

Chairman Brian Bush asked where other single family zones in the area are.

Mr. Randy Waterman responded that there is one land locked piece owned by the state. Everything else is municipal on Oak Street.

Member Charlie Diamond asked what are you using the property for?

Mr. Frank Height responded office space and additional parking. There will be no impact on anyone.

Member Mark Silverberg asked how does this impact future building? What kind of impact will this have to Oak Street?

Mr. Randy Waterman said that Spectrum can be in any zone. It doesn't change anything other than maybe the buffer between the two parcels.

Member Mark Silverberg said if you open up the buffer zone, are we making it easier of expansion and again what does it do for Oak Street.

Mr. Frank Height said we have an internal drive and this change would not bother Oak Street.

Chairman Brian Bush said it makes sense to him. We will schedule a public hearing and send out notice to abutters. Check with all your abutters to make sure they are okay with this change.

Future Zoning Articles:

7 Cottage Street rezoning:

The Town Planner said the proponent of the article did not show.

Member Mark Silverberg said he disagrees with making this a property commercial lot.

The Town Planner remarked that right now the lot is split, half residential and half downtown business.

Member Mark Silverberg said he wants business so he can build to the lot lines. This will not be appealing to some of the surrounding streets. He will get push back from his neighbors. It was not the intent of this overlay district to go to Cottage Street. He does not want to extend commercial to Cottage, Beech Street or others.

Member Bill Spencer said he walked the property after the last meeting. There is a pub on the corner and across the street is a bank and a parking lot extends in front of that property. He thinks it makes sense to make a mixed use property. Commercial use in those buildings would be better.

Member Mark Silverberg said the proponent has an option to develop that lot now. Maybe there are setback requirements. If it goes commercial he could build right up to the lot lines. If people start to park on Cottage Street it is a worse issue.

Member Charlie Diamond said when you go to the Central House, cars already park in the street.

Chairman Brian Bush said he wants to have the overlay with DPOD zone. We must first go to Town Meeting to rezone it Downtown Business. He will not get any immediate relief. Does he need frontage on South Street to get the DPOD?

The Town Planner said he does not need to have frontage on South Street because it is out of the 2500 area.

Member Tim Paris said the proposed article has to be already non residential before the proponent can have the DPOD zoning.

Chairman Brian Bush said he could do a commercial development if we rezone him Downtown Business. He thinks the request to have one zoning use is reasonable.

Member Mark Silverberg agrees but thinks it should be Residential. In the Downtown Business he can build out to the lot and does not require parking.

The Town Planner said we will try to have Gateway 2, rezoning of Cottage Street and the rezoning of Spectrum property for Town Meeting.

Chairman Brian Bush said Article request is something that 7 Cottage Street has asked us about. We can do the public hearing. Tell him to show up August 2nd, if he does not show up, we don't do the Article. He also needs to show up with support from abutters.

The Town Planner said he will call Mr. Wells to see what he wants to do.

Member Charlie Diamond said he now agrees with Member Mark Silverberg about not making it commercial.

Member Mark Silverberg said to sell that property it is probably hard to get financing because it is a split use lot. Maybe this is why he wants to do this.

Gateway District discussion:

The Town Planner said that the existing Gateway 2 District is Lyman Street to East Main Street. We are proposing to overlay non town owned property. We would extend along East Main Street from Lyman Street to the Senior Living Overlay District on East Main Street and Flanders Road and along Lyman Street from East Main Street to 33 Lyman Street where it would abut the IB and BA district. This District allows commercial use but the buildings will look residential. This would require an amendment to the existing zoning bylaw. If they want to rehabilitate a house to do a business they could but it would be no larger than 5,000 square feet. He has created a map of the affected properties and generated an abutters list.

Mr. and Mrs. Jason Rickman, 150 East Main Street was present for this discussion. They live next to the elementary school.

The Town Planner said the proposed change will front on East Main Street. The other properties are fine with the change. It does not affect the Willows. We are not touching the school property and the church will not be affected.

Chairman Brian Bush said in the Gateway 2, single family dwellings are allowed, 2 dwellings are allowed by us, conversion of structure to residential is allowed by special permit. Multi family is not allowed in residential butt will be in the Gateway 2 District. The rest of the uses are allowed under special permit. Most of the business uses or multi-family are consistent and gives flexibility under the Gateway 2.

The Town Planner said anyone must keep a 50 foot setback on sides and back for the Gateway 2. The Gateway is intended to have non residential uses but look like residential.

Mr. Rickman said they want to do a multifamily structure and redevelop the property.

Member Mark Silverberg asked what about retail or commercial use.

Mr. Rickman responded that they are looking at multifamily for now under Section 4200 of zoning bylaws.

The Town Planner said you cannot have more than two bedrooms in a structure. If they do a garden apartment or regular apartment you need 2 acres of property. You need to talk to the Building Commissioner.

Mr. Rickman said his current building is less than 50 feet from the street and on a one acre lot. Most of these things would be with the ZBA.

The Town Planner said to make sure to look at Section 2610 of the zoning bylaws.

Member Mark Silverberg said he has not seen a big push for development in this District since we created it. He does not see a huge push to convert to the Gateway. Do we really see a need to expand it? He prefers commercial uses down East Main Street.

Chairman Brian Bush said this was brought on by people who had residential property and wanted to be commercial use.

Member Mark Silverberg said without a mix use component, are they now looking to do all to commercial? He is not excited about commercial use on the corner of Flanders Road. Who will pay for a light at that intersection?

Chairman Brian Bush said there were some buildings that had uses that were not consistent with what existed on that street. To build a house, it is allowed by right. Just meet the setbacks.

The Town Planner explained that some properties could never be expanded beyond what it is because of setbacks but could be a commercial use as long as they stay in the same footprint.

The Town Planner explained that with the Gateway 2 zoning it has the flexibility of being a business or residential property. It gives people an option to what they want to do.

Member Mark Silverberg said he is concerned with people having options near Flanders Road. It is overstressed already.

Member Bill Spencer agrees and said the traffic is terrible at Flanders Road intersection. He personally would love to see a round-about at that intersection.

The Town Planner said this intersection has already been studied.

Member Bill Spencer said people sit at the Lyman Street/East Main Street intersection and then when the light changes, they fly out in either direction. It is a real traffic issue there. He finds it very dangerous.

Member Mark Silverberg said he is not excited about expanding down to Flanders Road or on the corner of Shepherd Street.

The Town Planner said when we looked at the two doctor offices at Lyman and East Main you can't enter there but you can exit. We had recommendations from Police and DPW and controlled the traffic flow. The Rickman's will need the support of neighbors to be able to pass this at Town Meeting.

Member Mark Silverberg is worried about notification of abutters and owners of the properties. You have to get 66% of the voters at Town Meeting to agree with this change.

The Town Planner said that the Rickman's need to talk to the Building Commissioner or go to the ZBA for variance. You could get 2 maybe 4 multi-families with a variance.

Amendment to current zoning on the Regulation of Marijuana Sales, Cultivation, Dispensation and Consumption related to land uses:

The Town Planner gave the Board a draft of a proposed zoning amendment for their review. It is meant to become part of the existing Medical Marijuana Bylaw. It needs to be reviewed by Town Counsel.

Chairman Brian Bush said he is not a fan of legalization of marijuana. We have two existing zoning bylaws that are a little out of place (adult entertainment, medical marijuana). This is a referendum and we want to vote on this before November. If it passes, we are not the only town that will do this. When prohibition was an issue in this country, a bunch of towns in Mass. stayed free of alcohol. Carlisle has remained dry. They have nothing in their bylaw.

Chairman Brian Bush said he really does not think this is the appropriate use of zoning. We are disallowing this law by creating a zone so you can't do this.

Member Tim Paris said it becomes a constitutional issue if we try to outlaw it completely. If it passes, we can't exclude it from the town.

Member Charlie Diamond said if the referendum gets passed, is it binding?

The Town Planner responded yes.

Member Mark Silverberg said when you looked at prohibition, towns had to opt in to allow the sale of alcohol. The new referendum is for a retail use of marijuana, it could be sold anywhere where retail sales are. Let's address it and then down the road if we want to lessen the bylaw we can.

Chairman Brian Bush said if you start thinking about what the zoning is going to look at, it seems a little backwards. You can buy medical marijuana already. There will be social implications.

Member Charlie Diamond said if the town does not want it they can get 10% of the town population to say they don't want it. We could have a petition going around.

The Town Planner pointed out that you would have to start that now before the referendum passes. Right now Massachusetts is only the 5th state to consider this. 4 states are learning they made a mistake. You have to right an option to opt out. We will be the 5th state to test the referendum. We should protect ourselves.

Member Bill Spencer said he agrees we should not use zoning as a tool. However, he feels that the referendum will pass. He went through this in California. What can we do to protect the community? Maybe the tool is zoning.

Chairman Brian Bush said he understands but it will make the zoning really cloudy. We are also the first state to implicate gay marriage. Massachusetts has done a lot of firsts. This change we are making is a defense mechanism.

Member Mark Silverberg asked what other options the town has to protect themselves. The town can't slap a tax on marijuana because the state would not allow it. He understands Chairman Bush's point of view.

The Town Planner questioned how many people will read the referendum that is 25 pages long. Most people will not. The law is not the same as alcohol where if you serve too much you can take away their license. This is a retail sale.

Member Charlie Diamond pointed out that if the town passes the referendum and we passed this amendment, how would we feel? We would be passing our own interests.

Member Mark Silverberg said not necessarily because it still goes through Town Meeting. Everyone in town will be aware of our amendment.

The Town Planner said his struggle is the referendum has 2 pages of definitions. One good thing is there is legislation that marijuana is not considered agriculture. We are covered under our current definition because even if our amendment to the existing bylaw fails. The referendum is very vague. The Town Planner said he will send Town Counsel our proposed General Marijuana Bylaw intent to regulate the location for sales, use, cultivation, processing and consumption of marijuana and marijuana products. He has incorporated the referendum definitions in with our existing definitions. The Town Planner said he will keep the board updated.

Electronic Signs:

The Town Planner said currently there are five electronic billboards on Route 9. We have several businesses in the downtown that want to put up small electronic signs. The Design Review Board has this request before them now. We need a bylaw to cover this.

Member Mark Silverberg asked is the Building Commissioner coming forward with In-law apartments.

The Town Planner said we are working on it. We need to start advertising on the articles. Our next meeting is August 2nd Can we have a second meeting in August. Maybe August 23rd

Chairman Brian Bush said the Spectrum House, Gateway 2, Medical Marijuana are all ready for advertising. Keep the meeting to the 16th.

Delegate membership discussion:

Chairman Brian Bush said there are several Boards/Committee's that the Planning Board sends a delegate to. We have two committees that are in need of a delegate, they are Central Massachusetts Regional Planning and Capital Expenditures.

Member Charlie Diamond said he did not wish to serve another term on the CRMPC.

Member Tim Paris volunteered to be the delegate to Central Mass Regional Planning.

Member Charlie Diamond said he would like to be the delegate to the Capital Expenditures Committee.

Member Mark Silverberg updated the Board that the frontage road is open at Speedway Plaza. He went from Lowes and you can now go all the way to Speedway Plaza via the frontage road. He wants to draft a letter thanking those that pushed to make this possible.

The Town Planner said he will call to see how it happened.

Progress a	ıt 4 Ar	rowhead	Lane:	Called	and	cancelled.

There being no further business to dis	cuss, the meeting adjourned at	9:58 p.m.	
Respectfully submitted,			
Sandy Spinella Administrative Assistant			
APPROVED:			
Brian Bush, Chairman of Board	Mark Silverberg, Vice-Chairman of Board		
Charlie Diamond	William Spencer	Tim Paris	

Special Permit Public Hearing The Ridings II – Concept Phase July 12, 2016

Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations relative to Special Permits under Section 4300 of the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Westborough, Section III of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land in Westborough, Massachusetts and MGL, Chapter 40A, Section 9, the Westborough Planning Board opened the public hearing on May 17, 2016 and continued on June 07m 2016 and July 12, 2016 on a request for a Special Permit for a residential Open Spacer Community Subdivision containing a proposal for 19 residential lots on land shown as Map 3, Parcels 29A, 57 and 57D on Harvest Way, Westborough, Massachusetts as submitted by Casa Builders & Developers.

Chairman Brian Bush clarified to the audience that this is a continuation of the public hearing and the public can make comments after the presentation, and comments from Town Boards and the Planning Board. This is the concept phase, first phase, the preliminary and the definitive phase increase with detail. We have heard from many abutters. Some highlights from the May 17th and June 7th hearing were water and drainage issues, property value, prefer Conventional Plan and cut through traffic. The Planning Board has had discussion. We now have to decide if we will make the Applicant do a conventional or open space plan.

Chairman Brian Bush said the public hearing has not closed. This is a special permit in addition to the subdivision. With a special permit we need to have 4 votes. A new modification plan called "Alternative II Open Space Subdivision Concept Plan" was given last Thursday in response to the issue of possible cut-through traffic. This is new information to the Planning Board

Mr. James Tetreault from Thomson-Liston Associates said they are trying to coordinate the project plans in the two towns to make the roads work.

The Town Planner warned the Board that it will affect Westborough if Grafton accepts the Conventional Plan.

Chairman Brian Bush said it looks like the Grafton Plan has a loop road that connects to Westborough. It does not show on the plan. It will affect this subdivision.

Mr. James Tetreault said Grafton is not in favor of doing the Conventional Subdivision.

Chairman Brian Bush pointed out if we vote in an open space plan and they vote in a conventional, they can't build it. Both open space plans are compatible.

Mr. James Tetreault said that through road traffic was said to be discouraged at the last meeting. We came up with a version of a plan that creates a T-intersection. The road now comes from Grafton and goes to the base of the cul-de-sac to dead end and then has to turn right onto Harvest Way. This is basically a version of the original plan but will not be as inviting to through traffic.

Mr. Tetreault said the road will be 987 linier feet and under the 1,000 sf. We need to iron out the conversion of the two conventional plans and update the new open space plan with the T-intersection.

Chairman Brian Bush said we asked the Town Planner to prepare an Open Space Plan Decision. The Open Space Plan will not work in Westborough if Grafton approves the Conventional Plan. There are several things that are not in the decision. You are not looking for a waiver on the cul-de-sac length because you are not expecting a through road. If we vote not to accept the open space plan then your next move would be working on the conventional plan. The question is what happens in Grafton if they have to bring theirs to an open space subdivision. Which plan are you putting forth? You have three.

Mr. James Tetreault said the Applicant would be commendable to the last plan given with the T-intersection.

Member Tim Paris said it seems regardless of what happens in Grafton, the grade would affect how flexible you can be. It seems like both are feasible. There are still the Preliminary and Definitive Phases to go through.

The Town Planner said regardless of the Plan, the number of lots will not change. His concerns are what are going on in Grafton. If we approve an open space plan, he has to redesign the conventional plan in Grafton. Recently Grafton is flexible with the open space plan. On the west side of the Westborough town line there is a significant grade change. There is a grade to catch up to either by cutting in Westboro or filling in Grafton. The Town Planner suggests the Planning Board go with the open space plan.

Mr. James Tetreault remarked that we will be in front of the Grafton Planning Board on July 25th. We will find out which plan Grafton wants at that time.

Chairman Brian Bush said if we vote on the Open Space Plan and then Grafton votes Conventional, it will change everything. He agrees to wait until after Grafton's meeting before making a decision.

Member Bill Spencer said he walked the property and the slope is very steep out there. Why is the road bridged into the hill? If we don't do a thru road the plans doesn't work.

Mr. James Tetreault said we had to create a yield plan but the developer does not want to build the conventional plan. In both towns the conventional plan is a longer roadway.

Member Bill Spencer said he personally does not want to waste too many more nights doing this. We need to meet with Grafton. Why did they not make a decision at their last meeting? Are they waiting for us?

Mr. James Tetreault responded no, questions came up that were different. The member asked us to change the road and they had a question about site distance.

The Town Planner said he spoke with Grafton's Town Planner who indicated that Grafton is going to act shortly. If you want a work session with Grafton, he can request that from them.

Member Bill Spencer said he wants a work session before voting.

Member Charlie Diamond said he would just as soon wait to see if Grafton votes, if not then we have a work session with them.

Member Mark Silverberg said he has no problem with holding a work session with Grafton. He was not at the meeting of June 7th. Harvest Way is still going at the bottom. If Grafton only approves the conventional, the Applicant still has the option to build a conventional. If we were to act and approve the Open Space Plan and Grafton approved Conventional Plan, the Applicant might also have to build a Conventional Plan in Westborough. He thinks we should wait on our decision until Grafton acts.

Member Mark Silverberg remarked he has an issue with existing homeowners who will be affected by this. He likes the new T- intersection and thinks it might alleviate traffic. As far as lot sizes, the landowner is allowed to develop his land. Why do we need 40 acres of open space? In the open space bylaw the maximum size of a lot is 15,000 sf. Why can't we let the developer build bigger lots? It would require a zoning change and Town Meeting.

Member Mark Silverberg said that Mr. James Tetreault presented home sales from another subdivision. He had friends that lived in Birchwood that had an island at the end of their cul-desac. He would rather see the cul-de-sac go longer with a center island. Member Silverberg said he has looked at other sales in town of open space subdivisions. Edward Brigham Way and Primrose Path are a few that are all in the \$600,000's. He finds it hard to believe that a new open space subdivision will negatively impact the residents. The size of the lot will not impact the existing homes.

Member Mark Silverberg said we have members from Sudbury Valley Trustees and Community Land Trust that have come in to these meetings expressing interest in the open space land. The Applicant would have to provide parking for people who want to access the open space.

Mr. James Tetreault said one thing we would like to do is keep the parking on the main road to be able to go to the existing trail system. It would be easiest access to trail systems. When it comes to the definitive plan he will be looking to provide for parking for the trails.

Member Mark Silverberg said he has to weigh the needs and desires of neighbors and then what is best for the town. 40 acres of open space is better for the town to add to the acreage of the Libby Property. Wildlife will have a more difficult time with a conventional plan. It is an issue and he feels important. He finds 40 acres valuable to the town. The Applicant has addressed the drive thru traffic issue. He still prefers an island at the end of a cul-de-sac.

Chairman Brian Bush said he thinks a work session with Grafton could be beneficial. We can condition some of our decision based on Grafton. If the road goes through it is not a cul-de-sac, etc. He does not think we should hold this up based on Grafton. A zoning change for enlarging open space lot size can be talked about at some point. We need to make a decision on what the Applicant has given us. Our decision now is whether we allow the Applicant to move forward with an open space plan or conventional plan. The matters of open space and parking can be hashed out later. If Grafton does something that prevents him from moving forward with us they will have to address it.

Chairman Brian asked the audience if they had any new information to add.

Mr. Andy Fox – 5 Harvest Way; Mr. Fox said since this public hearing process has started 5 houses have gone on the market in their subdivision and two have sold. We pay significant taxes to the Town. He has walked the back area where the open space will be and no one goes up there. Common sense says this is not land that people use. We are going to get a lot of runoff. He wanted to respond to public use of the land because it is not used. Mr. Venincasa does not have the capacity to do any of this. He will try to get it approved and then sell it. He hopes the Planning Board holds their toes to the fire to build it. We object to traffic and changing the neighborhood.

Member Mark Silverberg asked do you prefer the Conventional Plan or the Open Space T-intersection at Harvest Way.

Mr. Andy Fox responded that he would rather maintain the neighborhood with the conventional homes and add in speed bumps.

Mrs. Mary Fox - 5 Harvest Way – Mrs. Fox said our neighborhood was built in 2-3 years. She is very anxious this new subdivision could go on indefinitely. She is also worried about lots of trucks and noise. The Orchards Subdivision has taken forever. He can't sell his lots. You can't build indefinitely.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Brian Bush said there is a time constraint on how long it can take a developer to build the road. We can't dictate how long it takes to build a home.

Ms. Doreen Romano - 2 Eden Circle asked does the Board have the authority to not let him start a new subdivision until the other is finished.

Chairman Brian Bush responded no. We only control the roads.

Mr. Tin Htway, Building Commissioner asked do you have truck turning radiuses for the Fire Department. Have you done a truck turning radius for turning around?

Captain Jason Ferschke said the Fire Department is okay with this and we have sent comments.

The Town Planner said he can go and attend the Grafton Planning Board meeting on the 25th. If they don't decide on the 25th, then Grafton can go to our meeting.

Chairman Brian Bush said we need to let Mr. James Tetreault review the draft decision. Also the new plan needs to be referenced in the decision.

Chairman Brian Bush said our next meeting is August 2nd and by then we will know how Grafton decided to go.

Member Bill Spencer motioned to continue the Special Permit Concept Phase public hearing to August 2^{nd} . The motion was seconded by Member Mark Silverberg and unanimously voted.

Sandy Spinella/Administrative Assista	ant	
APPROVED:		
Brian Bush, Chairman of Board	Mark Silverbe	rg, Vice-Chairman of Board
Charlie Diamond		Tim Paris