

Town of Sumner - Planning Board Minutes
November 5, 2019 6:30 pm

Members Present: James McCarthy, Larry O'Rourke, Mary Standard, John Allen, Ralph Bennoch, Eric Austin, Don Berry and secretary to the Planning Board Susan Strout.

Public Present: none

The minutes from October 15, 2019 were read and approved with a motion by Standard, seconded by Allen and voted.

Open Session:

CEO/LPI Report:

CEO John Evans is sending a second letter to Nichole Hart and Jonathan Libby of 36 / 50 Arthur Allen Road. They are living in a camper without an approved septic design.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Building Notifications:

Norbert Thibault, 866 Greenwoods Rd, R22-013, deck and storage Building Notification was signed. Sufficient distance from structure to center of road was verified.

William Litchfield, 8 Cole Rd, R21-011, does demolition need building notification? Demolition of structures does not require a Building Notification. Property owners may want to let the Town Office know because assessors may be able to lower the tax assessment for the next year.

SBA Tower, 55 Tower Road, additional antennas and concrete pad No Building Notification yet. The company emailed to ask if one is needed and they were told yes.

Alicia Clukey hired an electrician to install the required outside electrical shutoff. With an initial visit by electrician it was determined that the wiring panel installed by residents would not pass an inspection. Andy Wickson and John Evans were contacted and arrangements are being made for a state inspection.

New Business:

O'Rourke and Standard (and Hinshaw from the Select Board) attended an AVCOG Planning Day held last week. Standard reported on workshops on drones and noise ordinances. Drones might be helpful to the fire department but need to be operated by someone with a license. Grants from Emergency Management will be available.

The board agreed with Standard that Sumner currently has very few worries with noise except fireworks, especially tannerite.

O'Rourke attended workshops on Marijuana Policy presented by the recently created Office of

Marijuana Policy. O'Rourke said that it was said in the presentation, that the OMP may be able to help municipalities with their questions around marijuana ordinances. In addition, the Land Use regulations have been used by other towns to trigger site plan reviews for marijuana policy.

O'Rourke also commented on the renewable energy workshop which covered solar as well as other renewable energy sources. Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) is increasing awareness of Community Solar benefits. O'Rourke stated that the Planning Board may need to become involved if solar is used more extensively in town due to issues with neighbor reflection, the use of high voltage wires, the safety of lead acid batteries, and the potential interest of out of state companies wanting to use land in Sumner.

Old Business:

Planning Board manuals are available for Planning Board members to use, as well as a new 2019 Maine Land Use Law Booklet.

Planning Board members were given copies of the relevant information about board member vacancies and absences. The Planning Board Ordinance and the By-laws have inconsistent information. Board members were asked to look over this material before the next meeting.

Planning Board members should bring their ordinance books for the addition of the Food Sovereignty Ordinance.

There was a reminder of the upcoming December 10, 2019 Special Town Meeting and vote on the proposed Commercial Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 with a motion by Allen, seconded by Bennoch and voted.

Minutes of the November 5th Planning Board meeting
Submitted by Susan Strout
Approved on November 19 by Planning Board members: