

Town of Sumner - Planning Board Minutes
October 15, 2019 6:30 pm

Members Present: James Mcarthy, Larry O'Rourke, Ralph Bennoch, John Allen Don Barry and Mary Standard. **Absent:** Eric Austin

Public Present: Micha Emery and Beth Maddaus, Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance Committee

The minutes from October 1, 2019 were read and approved with a motion by O'Rourke, seconded by McCarthy and voted.

Open Session:

The Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance (MCO) Committee members had come to the Planning Board meeting to address some of the concerns that the Planning Board members brought to the Select Board meeting the week before.

*The first was the lack of a requirement to notify abutters when a neighbor applies for a marijuana cultivation permit. Subdivision requests have to notify abutters and here was a request for that to apply to the MCO as well. **SUGGESTION:** requirement only to notify abutters.

* Requiring the 2 year residency in Sumner feels like a restriction of what people can do with their land.

What impact might being neighbor to a marijuana cultivation business do to property values?

CEO/LPI Report: Evans not present

Arthur Allen road property with camper - resident has been notified to submit septic plan

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Building Notifications:

Dennis Buck, 46 Gammon Rd, R8-17A, garage

Approved with a motion by Standard, seconded by O'Rourke, and voted.

Norbert Thibault, 866 Greenwoods Rd, R22-013, deck and storage

Unclear how far structure is from the center of the road. Pending approval if over 75' with a motion by Bennoch, seconded by O'Rourke and voted.

New Business:

Two Planning Board manuals have been purchased. Both are to stay in the Town Office Bldg.

The Planning Board Ordinance has a conflict with Planning Board By-laws on the number of absences allowed for a Planning Board member. Both sections will be researched before the next meeting.

(Section 5 vacancies / absences).

3. A vacancy shall also occur whenever a regular member is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the Board, unless the Board shall have been given due and just notice for the absence. If the Board has chosen to accept the cause of absence, the Chair shall advise both the absent member and the Selectpersons, in writing, of a probationary period of two regularly scheduled meetings at which to make an appearance.

4. A vacancy shall be declared, regardless of cause, whenever a regular member is absent from five consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.

O'Rourke would like the Planning Board to look at Renewable energy. Interest is growing in solar energy, even possibly with solar farms. Topics to investigate: security/safety with high voltage, and new policies in Maine.

Old Business:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 with a motion by Standard, seconded by Allen and voted.

Upcoming events:

October 22: Public Hearing on Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance

December 10: tentative date Special Town Meeting and vote Marijuana Ordinance

Meeting minutes from October 15, 2019

Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: November 5, 2019