



TOWN OF WESTPORT
856 Main Road
Westport, Massachusetts 02790
PLANNING BOARD

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PLANNING BOARD MEETING WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 31, 2017

Chairman James T. Whitin called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. with Vice-Chairman William Raus, Clerk Marc De Rego and Town Planner James Hartnett in attendance. Member Andrew Sousa and Member David Cole were absent.

Clean Energy Collective 15-006S Request by applicant for final release.

The Special Permit for this large array ground mounted solar project was approved by the Westport Planning Board on September 15, 2015. The solar project has been permitted and constructed in full compliance with the Special Permit and the Town of Westport's by-laws and regulations. The applicant is seeking final release/approval for their occupancy permit. The members reviewed the Tibbetts report and it was noted that the seed mix used under the panels was not as robust as was expected. Raus motioned to approve the occupancy permit in exchange for a \$10,000 surety to insure sufficient growth. De Rego seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with all in favor.

Westport Power Associates (CEC) 14-002S Request by applicant for modification: reduction of tree-line between access drive and detention basin.

Members reviewed the plan and location for the proposed work to cut trees. Raus noted that he would be concerned that this area would remain undisturbed and felt that the Planning Board needs a better reason why the applicant wants to remove the tree line. He noted that the angling of the stumps was not done at the other site. De Rego motioned that based on the information submitted the Planning Board does not agree to the change. Seconded by Raus. The vote was unanimous with all in favor.

Illicit Discharge By-Law.

Under the new MS4 permitting requirements a By-Law or other regulatory mechanism is now required. This regulation must provide the MS4 operator (the Town) the legal authority to prohibit, investigate, eliminate and enforce illicit discharges.

To address these requirements the Planning Board reviewed the 2011 illicit discharge By-Law and made some minor amendments to conform to the most recent model By-Laws. The Water Resource Management Committee has also reviewed the By-Law and suggested a number of changes that have been incorporated into the final document.

The Planning Board and WRMC would like to place this By-Law on the warrant for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. The members asked that the Planning Board address a letter to Conservation, the Agricultural Commission asking them to support this by-law.

Raus motioned to send the proposed by-law as written to the Board of Selectmen. DeRego seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with all in favor.

Town Planner report.

- a. Hartnett noted that Tiverton RI would be having a public hearing on 2/21/17 to hear proposed plans for the Twin Rivers Casino. Members requested that the following departments be notified that the Planning Board received this information and to post it on the website: Fire, Police, BOS and Town Administrator. Tabit was asked to attend the 2/21/17 meeting in Tiverton.
- b. St. Vincent property. Hartnett noted there will be a meeting tomorrow at 5 pm on the St. Vincent property. The current plan would be to conserve 40 acres in the back. If the Land Trust can complete a deal with the Diocese, the plan is to pay \$350K for the land. Other plans are still being explored and they are not finished looking into options.
- c. Drew's Marine at 999 Main Road. Hartnett stated that the bright sign lighting is being reviewed. There has been theft on the lot and they are in need for lighting in the front and rear. Bob Carrigg will be addressing the lighting issue.

Administrative Items.

- a. Seaport Economic Council Grant. Hartnett noted that there will be a formal announcement on 2/2/17 in Fall River for the grant recipients. The Town is slated to receive the amount applied for: \$249,000. Whitin stated he would also like to attend.
- b. Renew annual Revolving Fund articles. Raus motioned to renew the GIS revolving account only. Seconded by Dr Rego. The vote was unanimous with all in favor.

Any other business that may come before the board.

- a. Planning Board members agreed to not have meeting on February 7 and 14, 2017; there are no scheduled hearings.
- b. Members asked to inquire when the FinCom would like the Planning Board to attend. No notice was received to date, but staff would find out the schedule.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a Pub records request. Noted
- b SRPEDD Annual Assessment. Noted
- c TEC Inspection Reports. Noted
- d ZBA Decision Pine Hill Rd. Noted.

MINUTES

January 10, 2017

Raus motioned to approve as amended. Seconded by De Rego. The vote was unanimous with all in favor.

INVOICES

\$50.00 for monthly Phone expense to Hartnett.
\$33.71 for mileage for Tabit travel to Lakeville.
Members unanimously voted to pay the invoices.

ADJOURNMENT

Members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Tabit, Assistant Planner