



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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PLANNING BOARD
WORK SESSION

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

September 28, 2021

Chairman Jim Whitin called the meeting to order at 4:04 with Vice-Chair Robert Daylor and members John Bullard, Manuel Soares, Mark L. Schmid, and Assistant Town Planner Amy Messier were in attendance.

Call to Order at 4:00 pm

1. Administrative Items

- a. Zoning By-Law changes – Solar By-Law

Ms. Messier discussed her inquiry into how other towns are managing the limits of clear cutting in their Solar By-Laws along with how to incorporate the dual usage of solar with agriculture. Whitin suggested speaking with the agriculture community to see if the dual use would be something of interest to them.

Bullard mentioned the site visit to CEC on Old County Road with Amy and Mark Schmid. In discussions with John Aubrecht from Navisun LLC, discussions were had about the minimum height requirements for the panels for dual use agricultural. They also discussed Horseneck Beach parking lots and the Jr./Sr. High School as a prime locations for solar panels that would also provide shade for the cars. Steve Campbell mentioned a sponsor was all that would be needed to sign the proposals and the company will do the paperwork.

The Board discussed two amendments to the By-Laws for the next Annual Town Meeting. One was to amend the maximum clearing cutting areas from 16 acres to 12 acres. The other would be to increase the large scale solar array height limits to encourage dual-use solar for animals to graze beneath the panels.

The Board recommended speaking with the Zoning Board of Appeals to address the By-Law on cell towers and get recommendations.

Motion

Bullard moved to recommend the town adopt the limits of a maximum clearing area for the solar array including the access way be reduced from 16 acres to 12 acres. Seconded by Daylor with all five members in favor.

- b. Appointments - Long-Term Building Committee

Motion

Bullard moved to appoint Mark L. Schmid to the Long Term Building Committee. Seconded by Daylor with all five members in favor.

Motion

Whitin moved to appoint John Bullard to the Climate Resilient Committee. Seconded by Schmid with all five members in favor.

- c. Town Planner - Review applications and set up sub-committee for interviews

2. Matters not reasonably anticipated

3. Minutes

- a. September 21, 2021

Motion

Bullard moved the accept the September 21, 2021 Minutes as written. Seconded by Daylor with all five members in favor.

Adjournment

The members unanimously adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hartnett, Town Planner

Nadine Castro, Assistant Town Planner II