

The Hopkinton Planning Board

Held a Hybrid Open Meeting on

Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall 1 Town House Road Hopkinton, RI 02833

Call to Order: Chairman: Chairman DiOrio called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 on March 2, 2022.

Roll Call: Present Chairman DiOrio, Mr. Prellwitz, Mr. Lindelow, Ms. Light, Mr. Wayles, and Ms. Shumchenia

Pre Roll Call for April 6th, 2022 Meeting: Chairman DiOrio, Mr. Prellwitz, Mr. Lindelow, Ms. Light, Mr. Wayles, and Ms. Shumchenia all indicated they will be in attendance at this meeting

Minute Approval Extension Request Pursuant to Rhode Island General Law 42-46-7(b)1: Reference the February 2, 2022 minutes a Motion was made by Mr. Prellwitz and seconded by Ms. Light to extend the deadline for the submission of minutes from this meeting. Chairman DiOrio, Mr. Prellwitz, Mr. Lindelow, Ms. Light, and Ms. Shumchenia all voted to approve with none opposed or abstaining.

Approval of the Minutes: Reference the January 5th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes a motion to accept them was moved by Mr. Lindelow, seconded by Ms. Light. Chairman DiOrio abstained from the vote. Mr. Prellwitz, Mr. Lindelow, Ms. Light, Mr. Wayles and Ms. Shumchenia all voted to approve the minutes, with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Preliminary- Plan – Public Hearing- **Brushy Brook** – 140 Unit Comprehensive Permit- Plat 32, Lots 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 63, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, and 71, located at 130 and 0 Dye Hill Road, 0 Brushy Brook Drive, 0 Green Lane. LR6-A Owner, LLC, and Realty Financial Partners, applicants.

Acting Hopkinton Town Planner Talia Jalette received correspondence, (two letters dated February 25th, 2022, and March 1st, 2022) from an Attorney representing the Developers. The letters were received from Attorney William R. Landry, and she read the correspondence into the record of the meeting. (Please see copies attached):

Letter dated February 25th, 2022

Dear Jim:

Following receipt of the detailed Memorandum from Crossman Engineering on Wednesday and our discussion on Thursday, the applicant is requesting that this matter be continued to the Planning Board's March 2nd Agenda. As we discussed, although the Crossman Report has resolved many important engineering issues, there remain others that are not reasonably capable of mutual resolution by the engineers before Wednesday evening, as significant further on-site and off-site activity and discussion would be required.

Our plan is to expedite the exchanges between the engineers such that they can mutually get where they need to be and all parties concerned - particularly the Board- are able to deal with this matter in an efficient way the next time the matter comes before it, and with this information having arrived well in advance. If it turns out the April meeting is too soon for that, we will so advise as soon as possible.

As always thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

William R. Landry

Planner Jalette also read a second letter into the record:

Letter Dated March 1, 2022

Dear Talia,

Further to my letter to the Board on Friday, please be advised that the applicant hereby extends the time for the Board to act on this application, to at least April 13th, 2022.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

William R. Landry

Chairman DiOrio enquired if Attorney Landry sought to be on the April agenda. Planner Jalette clarified that they do seek to be on the April agenda, however if the issues are not resolved, they will seek an additional continuance at that point.

Ms. Light indicated her concerns that items on a Planning Review List were not being met by the Applicant. She saw it as “imperative” that this information be made available. Ms. Light states that with a project, this “sensitive and large”, that there are areas where we need to pursue items on the Planner’s checklist, and it is the “expectation” of the Board that these items be met, and the Board expects this information to be available. Ms. Light indicating that without this information, she did not see how the Board could move forward. Ms. Light indicated that in her review of the plan, that she had concerns with portions of it pertaining to water.

Att. Hogan interjected that the Planning Board may be deviating from the agenda for that evening. She indicated that Ms. Light could forward her concerns directly to Planner Jalette. Attorney Hogan indicating that the matter at hand and before the Board was the continuance request and not direct project review.

Ms. Light made a motion to continue this matter to the April 6th, 2022 meeting for Public Hearing, with a decision date of April 13th, 2022. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Prellwitz. Chairman DiOrio, Mr. Prellwitz, Mr. Lindelow, Ms. Light and Ms. Shumchevia all votes to approve with no opposing votes or abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Board Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-

Chairman DiOrio indicated that the matter was put on the agenda at his request. Chairman DiOrio indicated that he was stepping away from the leadership position. He believed that his bringing it forward for discussion is that it would allow other members of the Planning Board to put together a slate of Officers to ascend into the leadership roles at the next month’s meeting. Mr. DiOrio reflected on his tenure as Planning Board Chairman. He indicated two things, the composition of the Board as it stands and the ability of those currently serving upon it. He believes that the concept of Co-Chairs allowed members of the Board to serve as apprentice Chairman and be well prepared to take leadership roles. In composition he praised the sitting Board for its collective ability and that it gave him an opportunity to step away from the Chairman’s role and seek a new role on the Board. He closed that that was his thought process, and awaited the slate at the next meeting.

Setting the date and location of future Planning Board Meetings-

Chairman DiOrio enquired as to if the Planning Board was satisfied with the current format. Town Planner Talia Jalette cautioned the Board that any changes would have to be cleared through the Town Clerk’s Office to avoid scheduling and location use conflicts with other sitting Hopkinton Boards.

Mr. Prellwitz indicated he was very happy with the current format which has served the Board well.

The concept of a 6 PM versus a 7 PM start was discussed as a choice by Town Planner Jalette, as an alternative, to allow a heavier agenda to be addressed in a single evening by the Planning Board.

Chairman DiOrio indicated he agreed with the ability to start at 6 PM should the volume of the agenda appear heavy or daunting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Hogan had nothing to report, but did indicate to cases appealed had been continued. Once decided she would report all outcomes to the Planning Board.

PLANNER'S REPORT: Town Planner Jalette had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES: Chairman DiOrio had shared a Providence Journal article from 2-7-22 on Affordable Housing with other members of the Board. Ms. Shumchenia had shared an article on Hydrologic Impacts of Large Scale Solar Arrays from 2-9-22 with other members of the Board. There was no commentary on the information or commentary in response to either article sharing.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mr. Joseph Moreau of Old Depot Road spoke during the Public forum session of the meeting. He prefaced his comments in that he would be thanking many this evening during his comments. He indicated that during the Hopkinton Town Council meeting of February 27, 2022 a great effort had been made reference street names to create accurate official street maps. Mr. Moreau was very pleased to see that reflective numbers had been placed on mailboxes to allow First Responders to locate Hopkinton resident's homes better during times of emergency.

Mr. Moreau stated that most residents do not realize the amount of work that town officials, elected and appointed Boards undertake, and Mr. Moreau thanked all involved.

Mr. Moreau discussed an occasion in recent years, where he sought to petition his way on to a ballot to seek the position of Director of Public Welfare in Hopkinton. Among the first he approached was Chairman DiOrio and his wife Linda. That after signing the petition, Mr. DiOrio indicated that if someone was in need in Hopkinton, he would like to assistance his fellow resident. Although Chairman DiOrio sought to remain anonymous, Mr. Moreau believed he should be recognized for his kindness toward a fellow resident struggling in the tough economy at Thanksgiving this past Fall. That Chairman DiOrio purchased a \$100 Stop and Shop Gift Card to allow a fellow resident to enjoy their Thanksgiving with family.

Mr. Moreau thanked IT Director Jeff Frenette and Town Planner Talia Jalette for their collective professionalism in addressing hybrid meetings and mastering complex computer technology to make that happen.

Mr. Moreau thanked Attorney Hogan for her professionalism, new ideas and her leadership. He stated the effort was well received by residents.

Mr. Moreau recognized Acting Chairwoman Shumchenia for her professionalism and patience when addressing a recent caller who was making her opinion known on the Skunk Hill Road project. A caller spoke for over thirteen minutes without asking a question and Mr. Moreau believed it was bordering on a tirade. Mr. Moreau made this an example as to why he is in support of a five minute rule on public commentary. He believes meetings run better and with more public engagement when this is employed.

Ms. Sherry Aharonian called in to the meeting from Dye Hill Road. Ms. Aharonian enquired of all parties, the Town Planner, The Planning Board, and Town Solicitor as to if the checklist employed to approve a project is readily available. Town Planner Jalette spoke with Ms. Aharonian and advised her where on the website the most recent checklists can be found. Ms. Aharonian wanted to ensure the 2014 document is the document in use currently for her own clarification. Ms. Aharonian thanked Planner Jalette for clarifying the issue for her.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Prellwitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Lindelow. Chairman DiOrio, Mr. Prellwitz, Mr. Lindelow, Ms. Light and Ms. Shumchenia all voted to approve the motion to adjourn. None voted against the motion and no one abstained.

Meeting Adjourned at 7: 35 PM on March 2nd, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Spellman, Senior Planning Clerk