

Present: Chairman Craig Lizotte, Christopher Morely, Stephen Garvin, Vice-Chairman Peter Abair, Dylan Remley (Associate Member), Jody Kablack (Director of Planning and Development) and Jim Kupfer (Assistant Planner)

Absent: Martin Long

At 7:43 p.m., Chairman Lizotte called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing: Annual 2015 Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting - Zoning Related Articles

At 7:43 p.m., Chairman Lizotte opened the Public Hearing to discuss zoning-related 2015 Annual Town Meeting articles, and he read aloud the Public Hearing Notice.

Since there was no one present from the public, the Board briefly discussed its positions regarding the two zoning-related articles: Article #6 (STM) entitled, “Amend Article IX, the Zoning Bylaw, Section 7000, Definitions of Dog Kennel,” and Article #43 (ATM) to “Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX – Site Plan Authority Change from Board of Selectmen to Planning Board.”

Regarding Article #6 (STM), Mr. Garvin asked if other towns have changed their bylaws to be consistent with State law. Ms. Kablack stated she was uncertain about other towns, and she would consult with the Animal Control Officer.

Ms. Kablack summarized the proposed changes under Article 36 (ATM) to the General Bylaw, which are intended to make the bylaw consistent with state law, and it includes updates for more effective enforcement. Ms. Kablack noted Article 6 (STM) is to make the definition of Kennel consistent with the state and town bylaws. As originally discussed, the general bylaw (#36 ATM) discussion of this issue is the natural pre-cursor to the zoning article (#6 STM), however it is likely that the STM article will proceed prior to Article #36 of the Annual Town Meeting.

It was noted that, for the general bylaw, a dog license is required from the Town Clerk, and for zoning, a Special Permit is required from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The zoning article is proposed to make all licensing and permitting consistent.

Ms. Kablack stated there are only about ten current kennel licenses in Town.

A motion was made to support Article 6 of the May 5, 2015 Special Town Meeting, which was initially not seconded.

It was suggested that, if asked its position regarding Article #36, the Board could report at Town Meeting it was requested to propose the revision, and it has supported doing so, but it has not suggested policy recommendations.

Mr. Remley questioned if the Town wants to move towards being more lenient regarding the number of dogs, or if it would rather go back to only allowing three dogs. This is a larger discussion, and the Board would have to spend more time on its discussion.

Mr. Abair stated he is opposed to Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting. He does not believe consistency with State law is a compelling enough reason to make revisions.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To support Article 6 of the May 5, 2015 Special Town Meeting.

Chairman Lizotte and Mr. Morely voted to support the motion.

Mr. Garvin and Mr. Abair voted to oppose the motion.

With a tie vote 2-2, it was noted the vote is considered to be unfavorable.

Mr. Morely suggested the Board indefinitely postpone Article 6 of the May 5, 2015 Special Town Meeting, stating the Board would like to see how the Town Meeting votes on Article #36.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone Article 6 of the May 5, 2015 Special Town Meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was also unanimously

VOTED: To support Article #43 of the Annual 2015 Town Meeting to Amend Zoning Bylaw, Article IX – Site Plan Authority Change from Selectmen to Planning Board.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was further unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing regarding zoning-related 2015 Annual Town Meeting and the May 5, 2015 Special Town Meeting articles.

Annual 2015 Town Meeting – Take Positions on Articles & Discussion

Other than the articles previously discussed tonight, the Board does not have to take a position on any other Town Meeting articles.

A brief general discussion ensued regarding a variety of Town Meeting articles.

Mr. Garvin asked where \$2 million will come from for the two proposed rail trail petition articles. It was noted the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) both voted not to support the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail-related article, but the BOS and CIAC support the Mass Central Rail Trail-related article.

Mr. Garvin asked if the Davis Field project has reduced the amount of proposed paving. Ms. Kablack stated she does not believe that change has been made. Mr. Garvin believes reducing the amount of paving could reduce the project cost by approximately \$400,000. Mr. Remley concurred.

Delegate Stormwater Review to Conservation Commission - Davis Field Redevelopment

Chairman Lizotte stated he believes the Conservation Commission does not have the same level of engineering expertise as the Planning Board does to conduct stormwater management permit application reviews, and he is therefore not inclined to delegate review to the Conservation Commission. He also stated the Davis Field project is a large and significant Town project.

Mr. Morely stated he believes it is reasonable for the Planning Board to conduct the review for the Davis Field application. The Board concurred.

Chairman Lizotte asked if an application has been filed, and Ms. Kablack responded it has.

Ms. Kablack noted a Peer Reviewer will also be needed.

It was decided that the Planning Board will conduct the review of this application.

Minutes

On motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2015.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Ms. Kablack reminded the Board the Annual Town Meeting will be May 4-6, 2015. The next scheduled meetings of the Planning Board will be Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., June 10, 2015, July 29, 2015 and September 9, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chairman Abair at 8:43 p.m.