

**NORTHFIELD PLANNING BOARD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
REMOTE LOCATION
MEETING MINUTES, REVISED 3/3/22; REVISED 3/17/22**

Members Present: Chair Stephen Seredynski (SS), Joe Graveline (JG), Tammy Pelletier (TP), Meg Riordan (MR), Homer Stavely (HS)

Members Absent: none

Members of the Press: Chris Larabee (Greenfield Recorder)

Others in Attendance: Town Attorney Jeffrey Blake of KP Law, Board Recorder Wendy M. Levy

Please note, because of Zoom's participation structure, attendance may be incomplete.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair SS called the public hearing to order at 4:03pm.

MR shared the agenda via an on-screen document and reviewed it.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

SS announced quorum has been met.

III. OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FROM JOSEPH GRAVELINE

MOTION BY MR TO ALLOW ATTORNEY JEFFREY BLAKE TO RESPOND TO THE OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FROM JOSEPH GRAVELINE. TP SECONDED.

SS asked for comments from the Planning Board.

A discussion ensued. Highlights included:

- JG asked what is so important that he is not allowed to see Board Recorder Wendy M. Levy's written notes. Attorney Jeffrey Blake said Ms. Levy's hand-written notes are cryptic, she uses the video recording of the meeting to take her notes, and once she writes the draft meeting minutes, she makes those available. Mr. Blake reminded JG that he has access to the video recording of the meeting, and asked JG what else he believes he will get from Ms. Levy's notes. Mr. Blake told JG he has the right to ask the Planning Board to make changes to the draft minutes, and then the Planning Board will vote for or against making those changes.
- JG said the meeting minutes are not congruent with the video recording of the meetings. Mr. Blake told JG he can review the video recording and note where the minutes are inconsistent, and bring those notes to the Planning Board. Mr. Blake told JG the minutes are not a transcript.
- JG said he has been prevented from changing the minutes. MR said JG's requests for changes have been too vague to be actionable. MR said nobody changes the minutes between Ms. Levy sending them to the Planning Board, and the Planning Board receiving them.
- MR noted the delay in approving some draft minutes because the Planning Board has been

- spending so much time meeting to respond to the numerous Open Meeting Law complaints.
- SS told JG he has been trying to find fault with, and discredit, the Planning Board's February, 2021 solar array decision—which was approved in a 4-1 vote—since the Planning Board voted on it.
- JG said the minutes were a proper representation of the meetings before February 18, but were not after that date.
- SS said JG tried to intimidate Ms. Levy and was asked to cease direct communications with her, and now JG is trying to intimidate the Planning Board.
- MR said it has been established that the Planning Board's minutes meet Open Meeting Law.
- JG said the Planning Board owns Attorney Blake, and he does not. SS said this is an unfair statement: Mr. Blake serves the Town of Northfield; not individuals. SS told JG his attempts to intimidate the Planning Board have not gone unnoticed. JG asked for clarification on the criteria for intimidation.

At this point, HS joined the meeting. MR asked HS not to vote on the motion, as he was absent for the discussion that had just ensued.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MR MOTION:

MR: YEA

TP: YEA

JG: NAY

SS: YEA

MOTION CARRIES 3-1.

Mr. Blake said he will copy the Town Administrator and SS on his response to the Graveline Open Meeting Law complaint.

IV. ADJOURN

MOTION BY JG TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. TP SECONDED.

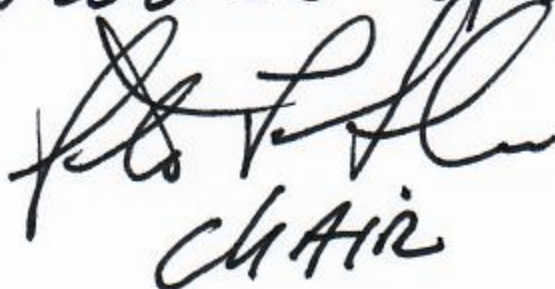
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.

Documents presented at this meeting:

- The meeting agenda, via an on-screen document.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy M. Levy from minutes taken by Wendy M. Levy.

APPROVES 3/17/2020

CHAIR