

**NORTHFIELD PLANNING BOARD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
HYBRID MEETING: SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL, AND ZOOM
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:

Others in Attendance:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

SS called the meeting to order at 4pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY HS TO APPROVE THE 6/24/21 MINUTES. TP SECONDED.

Discussion:

- JG said he sent an email to Board Recorder Wendy M. Levy with his proposed changes to the minutes.
- JG said: "I asked Wendy to correct this statement that I made relative to those minutes. It's the part that says, 'a discussion ensued that JG ask for the following amendments: add M.G.L 40 A S4 Uniformity of Zoning to the top of the first page, and add if it was part of the Solar Overlay District, I approve it in a heartbeat.' That is all correct, and then it says, 'strike "argued this project is too large for inclusion in the Residential Agricultural District" from the same page.' I asked Wendy to say that is what I argued for, 'it's too large for inclusion in the Agricultural Residential District,' so I'd like to see if we can change that. She should have an email from me regarding that, so what I'm looking for that I 'argued the project is too large for inclusion in the Residential Agricultural District.'"
- SS reminded JG that on 9/2/21, SS sent all Planning Board members the policy for the process to amend meeting minutes, and in sending Ms. Levy the email directly, and less than seven days in advance of the meeting, JG did not follow this policy.
- JG said he saw the email from SS dated 9/2/21.
- SS reiterated JG did not follow the established policy. SS told JG that Ms. Levy does not want JG to contact her directly, and that all emails should go to SS or MR, and seven days in advance of the meeting.
- JG disputed this policy is consistent with Open Meeting Law.
- SS responded: It has nothing to do with Open Meeting Law; it is Planning Board policy.
- JG said this policy "feels like a form of censorship."
- SS disputed this policy represents censorship, and this policy is the process to amend the minutes.
- HS said the Planning Board members must follow policy, and he appreciates JG's dedication.

- MR noted this policy applies to all Planning Board members, and all members should be mindful of the difference between intention and impact.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MOTION:

TP YEA
HS ABSTAIN
JG ABSTAIN
MR YEA
SS YEA

MOTION CARRIES 3-2.

MOTION BY TP TO APPROVE THE 9/23/21 MINUTES. MR SECONDED.

Discussion:

- JG said he "will be shut out of this conversation." He said he has concerns about these minutes and wants them addressed.
- MR said the policy for amending minutes is not adversarial; it is a process in place to address the timing and direction of proposed amendments to meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MOTION:

TP YEA
HS ABSTAIN
MR YEA
SS YEA
JG ABSTAIN

MOTION CARRIES 3-2.

III. PLANNING BOARD EMAIL CHANGES

SS announced a Planning Board email account will be established soon. Details to come.

IV. SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

MR and HS reviewed the background on how the draft changes to the subdivision regulations were developed, and who helped with them.

MR noted she sent an email with the document to Planning Board members so they could reference it.

MR and HS reviewed the proposed changes to the subdivision regulations.

MR noted there are not many changes.

A discussion ensued on the attorney's suggestions, and how and when those will be incorporated.

MR said the attorney's comments will remain in the table.

MR and HS will make changes, then send them to the team, and to the Town Secretary.

V. AND VI. PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

SS announced the date of the public hearing: November 17.

SS said the subdivision regulations need to be published on November 3 and November 10.

SS announced the date of the special town meeting: December 15.

SS noted the Town Administrator want to have a combined meeting: the public hearing and the Selectboard meeting. Because the Selectboard needs to sign the warrant, relevant documents must go to the Town Administrator by November 29.

HS asked what will happen if the public wants to make amendments to the subdivision regulations, as a result of the public hearing. He noted this is a short timeline. SS agreed, and said if it becomes an issue, the Planning Board will make a decision after the public hearing.

VII. TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS PRIOR

SS announced the upcoming possibility of the Planning Board applying for DTL8 funds.

VIII. ADJOURN

MOTION BY HS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:41PM. MR SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Approved 3/17/2022
[Signature]
Chair