



**Town of West Newbury
Planning Board
Tuesday April 4th, 2023
381 Main Street, Town Office Building
www.wnewbury.org
Minutes of Meeting**

Open Session: 7:00 PM by remote participation (see below)

Addendum to Meeting Notice regarding Remote Participation:

Pursuant to Chapter 20 Of the Acts of 2021, “An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency”, Approved by the Governor, June 16, 2021, which extended permissions for boards and commissions to conduct remote meetings, the Planning Board conducted its meeting via remote participation. The meeting agenda included instructions for the public about how to participate remotely. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that it has been unable to do so, despite best efforts, the Board will post on the Town of West Newbury website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Chairperson Ann Bardeen called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Members in attendance were Ann Bardeen, Ray Cook, Deb Hamilton and Brian Murphey. Tim Cronin was not present. Town Planner, Sue Brown, was also in attendance. All participated via Zoom Conference.

1. Update on Tree Removal at Grant Farm

Sue Brown stated the tree was located on a State numbered highway (Route 113) which makes it exempt from the Town’s Scenic Roads Bylaw and Chapter 87. Brown stated the Tree Warden confirmed that the tree was not in good health and that there were other trees in the area that were also not in good health. Brian Murphey stated he was surprised that Mass DOT has a greenlight to cut down whatever they please without the consideration of the Towns bylaws. Fred Chanania, of the Tree Committee, stated he believed those trees were in good health the last time he assessed them. Chris Grant, the owner of Grant Farm where the tree was located, stated the tree was removed by National Grid. Chanania asked Grant if he had a discussion with National Grid prior to the removal of the tree. Grant explained that he only had a discussion with the Tree Warden. Chanania requested to meet with Grant to go into further detail on this matter.

2. MBTA Communities Update

Brown stated that the contract has been executed. Brown stated she had a meeting with Dodson and Flinker representatives and the kickoff meeting is scheduled for April 18th.

3. Accessory Dwelling Unit “ADU” Bylaw Discussion

Planning Board members and Brown went over the edits and changes to the ADU Bylaw. Brown made the changes as agreed on.

4. Town Meeting

Bardeen thanked Tim Cronin for attending the FinCom meeting to explain the Solar Bylaw. Brown shared the edits from Robin Stein at KP Law regarding the Abandonment and Decommissioning language of the bylaw. Brown used the State’s model as the starting point for this new language. The State did not recommend a surety but the Select Board preferred surety language in the bylaw for the Town.

5. **Planners Report**

Brown gave an update on the stormwater management regulations – Lori Kennedy of Horsley Witten will present proposed regulations at the April 18th meeting.

6. **General Business:**

- **Minutes** – February 21, 2023; March 7, 2023
Cook moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Bardeen. Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0.
Bardeen moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Cook. Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0.
- **Correspondence:** There were none.
- **Administrative Details:** There were none.
- **Placement of Items for Future Planning Board Agendas:** None
- **Items not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of a Meeting:** There were none.

Adjournment:

Bardeen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 P.M. Seconded by Cook. Roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Katelyn Bradstreet, *Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board*