

TOWN OF GROTON PLANNING BOARD
Monday, August 16, 2021
Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA
Special Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Planning Board was held on Monday, August 16, 2021, at approximately 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA, in the 1st Floor Meeting Room.

Members Present:

Mr. Russell Burke, Chair
Mr. Scott Wilson, Vice Chair
Mr. George Barringer, Board Member
Mr. David Bonnett, Board Member
Ms. Alyson Bedard, Board Member

Members Not Present:

Ms. Annika Nilsson Ripps, Clerk
Ms. Lorayne Black, Board Member

Also Present:

Mr. Takashi Tada, Land Use Director/Town Planner

Discussion – Potential Zoning Amendments for Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Burke said three Articles were being proposed for Fall Town Meeting which were as follows:

- General Clean-Up Clarification

Mr. Burke said there were a few administrative areas that needed to be changed.

- Multi-Family Housing Zoning Amendment

Mr. Burke said the other two proposed Articles had to do with a text amendment and a map amendment for multi-family designation. He added they did not yet have the verbiage or plans for the Articles, but wanted to put in placeholders.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve placing the three zoning amendment Articles as placeholders on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Barringer seconded the motion.

The motion carried 5 – 0 – 0.

Mr. Tada added Attorney Brian Falk, of Mirick O’Connell was the new Town Counsel and he was in the process of reviewing the most recent draft of the Multi-Family Development District Zoning that the Planning Board had discussed.

Mr. Tada explained that the Shepley Hill Subdivision (Attorney Jill Mann) had provided the Board with a draft covenant for review. He said Attorney Falk had suggested that the covenant be revised to include a statement regarding the maintenance of the subdivision roadways.

Consider Authorizing a Request to the Department of Housing and Community Development for an Advisory Opinion Regarding Eligible Locations for Multi-Family Zoning in Groton Pursuant to the Housing Choice Legislation

Mr. Burke said the Department of Housing and Community Development had offered to provide advisory opinions regarding the eligibility of sites for communities contemplating multi-family housing in conformance with the Housing Choice Legislation as it affected MBTA communities. He said, however, an advisory opinion could only be requested by a Mayor (in cities) and by elected Planning Boards or Select Boards (in towns).

MOTION: Member Barringer made a motion to vote to authorize the submission of a request for an advisory opinion from the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the eligibility of a site that met the requirements of the Housing Choice Legislation. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

The motion carried 5 – 0 – 0.

Adjournment

MOTION: At approximately 5:18 p.m. Mr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barringer seconded the motion.

The motion carried 5 – 0 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Trish Gedziun
Recording Secretary

Approved 8/26/2021