

Minutes Meeting of July 7, 2009 – Business Meeting

Members Present: Chase Duffy, Robert Cadle, Mark Mulligan, Jay Prager, Alison Manugian, Megan Mahony, Harris McWade

Chairman Cadle convened the meeting.

Mr. Prager gave summary of what he is aware of relating to Mr. Degen's complaints.

Discussion ensued regarding the sequence of events.

Chairman Cadle said that the Town Manager asked for authority from the BOS to get together with the ZBA to discuss a list of recommendations.

Mr. Mulligan said that he feels that the BOS shouldn't vote on policies relating to the governing of other boards.

Mrs. Duffy said she was told that the ZBA is superior governing board and members needed to keep their noses clean and out of town politics. She said that the 40B seems to have brought all this into the ZBA's lap.

Mr. Prager said that best practices should be applied to all boards in town.

Mr. Mulligan said that he thinks the ZBA has been targeted with Mr. Degen at the helm, noting that it is not BOS purview to police other boards.

Mr. Prager said that it is not unreasonable to have a town wide policy.

Ms. Mahony said that a policy is not bad, but how this was presented was very bad. She said that she is troubled that the BOS hasn't addressed the impropriety of Mr. Degen's actions.

Mr. Prager said that the Board wants the BOS to make a statement about a vote of confidence in the ZBA.

Ms. McWade felt uncomfortable about the situation and discussion ensued.

Mr. Prager noted two issues: 1) best practices should be applied to all boards and will it happen and 2) confidence in the ZBA made official from the BOS.

Chairman Cadle said that he doesn't think the BOS has the right to micromanage the ZBA.

Mr. Prager said that it is okay if it applies to all boards, all across town.

Discussion ensued regarding the difference between associate vs. regular members.

Discussion ensued regarding how to make the situation go away.

Ms. Mahony stressed that she wants a vote of confidence that will help the BOS, the ZBA, and future members.

Mr. Prager said that he thinks that most involved want to get away from the details of Mr. Degen's accusations, noting that everyone should be treated equally.

Mrs. Manugian said that she wants a list of things to ask for from the Town Manager.

Mr. Prager said again, that this should be made available to all boards.

Discussion ensued regarding signatures and best practices.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the ZBA should interview potential members.

Discussion ensued regarding how to proceed.

Of note: the quorum issue is very confusing.

A suggestion was that have one Wednesday either per month or every other month as a regular ZBA meeting.

Mr. Mulligan said that he wanted no more ZBA punishment in public eye.

Discussion ensued regarding how to handle education sessions and consultants and contracts.

Chairman Cadle suggested identifying the consultants with the applicant and then having the consultant submit scope and cost letters and then see if the applicant agrees.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.