



Town of Groton Massachusetts Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

July 13, 2011

Present

Robert Cadle, Chairman
Cynthia Maxwell, Member
Mark Mulligan, Member
Carol Quinn, Associate Member
Alison Manugian, Member
Bruce Easom, Associate Member

Not Present

Jay Prager, Member
Megan Mahoney, Associate Member

A quorum was attained. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Reorganization of Board, etc.

Chairman Cadle noted there is one vacancy for an associate member, and that Joshua Degen has expressed interest. He said the ethics commission indicated that the Board of Selectmen do not supervise the ZBA and, therefore, Mr. Degen's appointment would not violate the prohibition of selectmen sitting on boards or committees they supervise; but the town manager will check with town counsel as to the legality of a selectman sitting on the ZBA.. He said a couple of people in town have expressed to him concerns about whether the appointment of Mr. Degen to the ZBA might put too much power in the hands of a single selectman. . He said the board would have to figure out a time to meet with Mr. Degen.

Mr. Easom said he feels that if Mr. Degen is sitting on this board it makes his (Easom's) voice as a volunteer not valid and not heard, particularly because Mr. Degen, as a selectman, is heavy-handed. He said he thinks this is Mr. Degen's way to try to manage the board.

Mr. Mulligan said he agreed.

Mrs. Manugian said her concern is Mr. Degen's lack of concern for both individual members and the board as a whole.

Mr. Mulligan said he feels that the BOS bears some responsibility for not addressing the lack of propriety of Mr. Degen's previous attacks, and an apology was never issued.

Ms. Quinn said that even if Mr. Degen were not on the board, he could attend meetings and report back to the BOS.

Mr. Easom said he is concerned that the shadow government of volunteers would be put at risk if Mr. Degen sits on this board.

The board as a whole felt very disrespected by the process.

Discussion ensued regarding how to proceed with the letter to the BOS regarding the appointment of Mr. Degen.

Mr. Easom said he would work on the letter to the BOS, but would like a list of the comments made by Chairman Cadle at the BOS meeting first addressing this appointment. He said he would also like a draft of a letter penned by Mrs. Manugian.

Chairman Cadle said that a lot of this is based on personalities.

Mr. Easom suggested that Mr. Degen could come to a meeting with the ZBA with this letter from the board, to address their concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding BOS policies regarding the length of term for a chairman.

Chairman Cadle said he would prefer to pass on the chairmanship.

Chairman Cadle nominated Mr. Mulligan as chairman. Mrs. Manugian seconded and the motion passed with Manugian, Cadle, Mulligan and Maxwell voting to appoint. Alternate members Easom and Quinn abstained.

Mrs. Maxwell made a motion to nominate Mr. Cadle as clerk. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Minute approval

Mr. Mulligan made a motion to approve minutes from 3/23/11. Mrs. Manugian seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mulligan made a motion to approve minutes from 4/13/11. Mrs. Manugian seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Manugian made a motion to approve minutes from 4/20/11. Mr. Mulligan seconded and the motion passed with four yeas and one abstention.

Mrs. Maxwell made a motion to approve minutes from 6/1/11. Mr. Mulligan seconded and the motion passed with three yeas. There were three abstentions, including Member Easom.

Mr. Easom made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Mrs. Maxwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes approved 9/21/11.