

TOWN OF STAMFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
October 19, 2020
(UNAPPROVED)

Planning Commission present: Aaron Malachuk, Chair, Debra Burchard, Sheila Lawrence, Daniel Potvin, and David Saldo.

Kurt Gamari, John Dupras, Helen Fields, Jenifer Hughs and Annemarie Potvin were not present.

Visitors: None.

Lori Shepard, Secretary.

Aaron Malachuk called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

1. MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the regular meeting minutes of June 8, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Deb Burchard. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. MOTION by Deb Burchard to accept the public hearing meeting minutes of July 27, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Dave Saldo. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST LAND

Aaron Malachuk scheduled this meeting to discuss the town's options to utilize National Forest land. Chris Mattrick from the Green Mountain National Forest attended a recent Selectboard meeting and said that towns could promote recreational activities on National Forest land. Aaron Malachuk would like to invite him to a Planning Commission meeting. Warming huts and shelters could be built and trails could be made for back country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, etc. Dave Saldo expressed his disappointment over the recent land sale to the National Forest and said there is probably still time for residents to sign a petition against the sale. He thinks the Selectboard should have allowed the townspeople to vote on the matter. He wanted to clarify that if the National Forest does not receive town support for a transfer, they will not buy the land. Discussion continued as to the recent transfer, other lands owned by the National Forest, the fact that the National Forest now owns more than half of the acreage in town and that they usually restrict and prevent use, not promote it.

RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Planning Commission discussed the Administrative Officer position at length and the qualifications for the position. They believe the Administrative Officer must be able to follow the law literally and must be fair across the board, applying the Zoning Bylaws to all residents without favoritism. The Administrative Officer must have diplomacy and grit and be able to develop a good rapport with townspeople. The pay structure was reviewed and Deb Burchard thought paying by stipend should be considered. It is a very important job and can sometimes feel like a thankless one. Notices advertising for the position will be posted at Billmont's Country Store, the Stamford Elementary School, the town bulletin board, the transfer station, and maybe the driving range. The notice will be added to the town website and sent out through the Selectboard's email list. iBerkshires was also mentioned and Lori Shepard will look into the cost to place an add.

FREQUENCY AND SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Aaron Malachuk felt even though the Planning Commission has updated the Town Plan and completed the revisions to the Bylaws, they should hold regular meetings in case people would like to attend or bring forward concerns, even if meetings are held every other month. Dave Saldo questioned the

board's decision from March 2019 to seek removal of members after three consecutively missed meetings. Aaron Malachuk stated that this criteria was temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 at their March 2020 reorganizational meeting. Dave Saldo felt the rule was created to remove him personally. Dave Saldo said Dan Potvin is an ad hoc member of the Planning Commission because he is already on the Selectboard and should not be voting. Aaron Malachuk will look into this. Discussion ensued on a variety of other topics.

MOTION by Aaron Malachuk to adjourn. SECONDED by Deb Burchard. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be scheduled for some time in January 2021.

Aaron Malachuk
Planning Commission Chair

AM/las