

TOWN OF STAMFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
May 11, 2020
(UNAPPROVED)

Planning Commission present: Aaron Malachuk, Chair, Debra Burchard, Helen Fields, Jenifer Hughs, Sheila Lawrence, Daniel Potvin, and Annemarie Potvin, Alternate.
Kurt Gamari, John Dupras, and David Saldo were not present.

Visitors: None.

Lori Shepard, Secretary.

Aaron Malachuk called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was conducted in the school gym and some board members were present and some participated remotely by video.

REORGANIZATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION

Sheila Lawrence asked the board to wait until the June meeting when a full board could be present. Aaron Malachuk felt 7 out of 10 people were present and the reorganization was duly warned on the agenda.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to reorganize the board tonight. SECONDED by Helen Fields. 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Sheila Lawrence). Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to nominate Aaron Malachuk as Chair again. SECONDED by Deb Burchard. Helen Fields felt Aaron Malachuk is doing a good job and he is willing to listen.

Vote: All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to nominate John Dupras as Vice Chair. SECONDED by Aaron Malachuk. Dan Potvin feels John Dupras is an excellent engineer who brings a lot to the table. Deb Burchard questioned whether you could nominate someone who wasn't present. Helen Fields looked it up and advised that the nomination can be made and if the nominee refuses, the board can choose another. Vote: All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Jenifer Hughs to nominate Helen Fields as Clerk. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Helen Fields stated that Lori Shepard does the work of the clerk. She is paid through unused funds the Planning Commission obtained from a grant many years ago. There is approximately \$2,800.00 left in the account. Helen Fields recommended the board consider budgeting funds next year for the clerk's position. She said it is very hard to participate in the discussion and take notes at the same time so paying a clerk to take notes is important.

REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR MEETINGS

Aaron Malachuk acknowledged that the guidelines ensure an active membership but they have been temporarily suspended due to the corona virus. Helen Fields would like to keep the guidelines in place because she doesn't want people to stop participating. Deb Burchard agreed that attending meetings is important and there should be accountability.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to keep the same guidelines in place. SECONDED by Deb Burchard. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The guidelines were reviewed: if a member misses three consecutive meetings, the Chair will contact them with a letter to see if there are extenuating circumstances and give a warning that four missed meetings will result in a recommendation to the Stamford Selectboard for removal from the committee. Deb Burchard stated that extenuating circumstances should be communicated by the member and considered by the board.

MINUTES

MOTION by Helen Fields to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2020 as written. SECONDED by Aaron Malachuk. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DISCUSSION OF ZONING BY-LAWS

The Planning Commission reviewed the changes from the last meeting which were highlighted in the revision by Jim Sullivan of the Bennington County Regional Commission. They agreed to consult with John Dupras on Sections 7.5 and Sections 8.2, and specifically, 8.2.1 before making a decision on those areas.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Helen Fields felt this meeting using Zoom was much better than the last Selectboard meeting by teleconference. She would like to request that the sound system in the gym be fixed since meetings might have remote participation for some time. She suggested hanging quilts from the ceiling to absorb the echo and will research the idea further. Lori Shepard agreed to look for COVID-19 grants to fix the acoustics in the gym.
2. Dan Potvin noted that the weather is beginning to get nicer and suggested the next meeting be held outside in the parking lot. Deb Burchard suggested using the Stamford Community Church pavilion. Aaron Malachuk will contact the church.

MOTION by Aaron Malachuk to adjourn. SECONDED by Deb Burchard. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Aaron Malachuk
Planning Commission Chair

AM/las