

OFFICE OF THE PLANNING BOARD

TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313 (978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893 planning@dunstable-ma.gov

Meeting Held via Zoom

Meeting held virtually through Zoom, Zoom ID 883 6843 5739

Planning Board Minutes Monday, November 16, 2020

Chair Joe VLcek at 7:30pm, called the meeting to order. Members present: Joan Simmons, Jeff Pallis and Dave Greenwood Member absent: George Basbanes

Possible Informal Discussion - John/Gerald Gath - 48 Valley Street - Marijuana Cultivator

Neither John nor Gerald attended. The Administrative Assistant told the Board that the Gath's have hired an engineer to work on a Site Plan. He will contact the Town Engineer.

Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020

Joan made a motion to approve, with correction, the minutes from the November 2, 2020 meeting. Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bill/Payroll

No bills. Payroll was approved.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Sign Bylaw

The Board of Selectmen met and discussed revising the sign bylaw. The Town Administrator received an opinion from Town Counsel that said, "I always urge caution when considering amendments to sign bylaws. Recent Supreme Court cases have restricted a town's ability to regulate non-commercial speech, and making changes to existing bylaws often brings scrutiny by the AG's Office on other provisions. That said, a bylaw for this limited purpose would be permissible (banning unauthorized signs from Town property). We have a zoning bylaw on signs, so adapting a general bylaw on the same or similar subject poses challenges. It might be more in the order of a general bylaw on Town property that pertains to unauthorized installations, including signs. In place of a bylaw, you might consider having the Board of Selectmen, Board of Road Commissioners, and other entities in charge of Town properties adopt policies/regulations prohibiting the installation of unauthorized signs on property in their custody. This is permissible, and may help avoid a bylaw amendment or Town Meeting vote."

Rules and Regulations Changes

NMCOG will help the town with changes to Rules and Regulations if needed once they receive state funding.

Jeff made a motion to close the meeting at 7:56pm. Joan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:30pm. Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann Administrative Assistant Dunstable Planning Board Approved: December 7, 2020