

Westfield Planning Commission
Meeting November 25, 2019
6:30 pm – Westfield Community Center

Present: Brian Dunn, Kitty Edwards, Pat Sagui (chair), Yvan LaPlume, Loren Petzoldt, Ellen Fox
No members of the public were present

1. Call Meeting to Order

Pat Sagui called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No changes or additions.

3. Approve Minutes

Yvan made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 28 meeting. Brian 2nd the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Composition of PC and BOA

Introductions were made to welcome a new member to the Planning Commission, Kitty Edwards. Kitty was appointed to the PC at their November 18th meeting. Pat provided an update that the Selectboard heard our proposal to reduce the membership of the PC or use alternates. With this new appointment, the Selectboard will forego any changes to the number of members or use of alternates at this time and will review the situation in 6 months.

5. Review and Edit Bylaw

Ordinance vs Bylaw re Outdoor Storage

Pat reported that the Selectboard prefers the development of an Ordinance for outdoor storage and to use existing guidance from the Zoning Bylaw for setbacks for storage areas. Discussion of the components of an outdoor storage ordinance followed.

-state regulates salvage and junk yards

-outdoor storage of vehicles, and recreational vehicles, would be governed by the ordinance if the vehicle is unregistered for more than 6 months, and inoperable. Plow trucks, tractors, and recreational vehicles during their season of use likely would not qualify as outdoor storage governed by the Ordinance.

-the Village, North Hill, and Rt 100 corridors are important places to maintain scenic value

-suggestion for a Preamble to the Ordinance which emphasizes the aesthetic value of properties to encourage property owners to maintain tidy lawns.

The Planning Commission looked at the Barton Ordinance as a template. Pat commented that Barton is achieving significant compliance by delivering notice of the civil violation by the Sherrif.

Pat will draft an Ordinance using templates from other towns as a model and gather input before the next meeting. The draft will be a list of provisions for the Planning Commission to discuss rather than the full language of the Ordinance.

6. Tasks and Timelines for next steps to update Bylaw

Since the outdoor storage is being addressed with an Ordinance, Pat will prioritize the draft of the Ordinance. She will send a draft to Planning Commission members in December. Members will respond with comments and revisions in January to arrive at a nearly final draft to review at the January 27 meeting.

7. Other Business

No other business

8. Next Meeting

9. Next Meeting

No December meeting

Monday, January 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm

10. Adjourn

Loren made a motion to adjourn. Kitty 2nd. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ellen Fox