

Freetown Planning Board
Minutes of the Tuesday, March 6, 2018 Meeting
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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Present: Keven Desmarais, James Frates, Robert Jose, and Mark Rogers. 2019 AUG 20 PM 3:13

Absent: Debra Robbins.

J. Brown

Call to order: Mr. Desmarais called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Continued Public Hearing – Irving Oil, 68 South Main Street, Assonet

Mr. Desmarais called the continued public hearing back to order and read a letter from the attorney for Irving Oil requesting a continuance to March 20th.

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Jose, to continue the public hearing to Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Form A – 1 & 3 Debbie Lane, Assonet

Members reviewed the plan as submitted. The plan showed an exchange of small triangular parcels of land each measuring 2,945.3 square feet in area to accommodate a swimming pool and shed for 3 Debbie Lane that had been built partly on both properties. The exchange will reduce the frontage of 3 Debbie Lane by 45.25 feet, but will not reduce the frontage below the minimum 175 feet. Both resulting lots show the 100'-diameter circle touching frontage and contained entirely within the lot. Mr. Desmarais noted that the plan should have showed dashed lines to indicate which parcel was being attached to which lot, and solid lines for the resulting lots, but stated this was not a bar to signing. Mr. Rogers noted the presence of the statement that endorsement does not guarantee buildability or compliance with the zoning by-laws.

A motion was made by Mr. Jose, seconded by Mr. Frates, to endorse the Form A plan for 1 & 3 Debbie Lane, land exchange. The motion carried unanimously.

Receive Minutes / Receive Schedule of Bills Paid

Minutes from the meetings of February 6, 2018, prepared by Mike McCue and February 13, 2018, prepared by Timm McIntosh were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Jose, to approve the minutes of February 6th as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Frates, to approve the minutes of February 13th with a minor wording change. The motion carried unanimously.

Discuss Planning/Land Use Administrator Position

Mr. Desmarais reviewed the process that had been followed from advertisement of the position through the interviews that had been conducted on February 13th. He stated that following the meeting of February 13th, the process for checking references and verifying other information provided by the applicants had revealed some discrepancies that were then discussed by himself, the chairman of the Personnel Board, the Town Administrator, and Town Counsel. In light of that discussion, that group felt that the best course of action would be to re-advertise the position. It would now be for the Planning Board to make a decision on its prior recommendation.

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Frates, seconded by Mr. Desmarais, to rescind the recommendation of Heidi Baacke for the position of Planning and Land Use Administrator. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on what steps to take next. Options discussed included hiring a Senior Clerk, a part-time Senior Clerk along with a Town Planner, a Planning Technician, or a Planning and Land Use Administrator.

Combinations of positions and hours among all available options was also discussed. Mr. Frates asked about advertising for a Planning Technician and upgrading the position to Planning and Land Use Administrator if the qualifications of a candidate warranted it. Mr. Jose suggested hiring a Planning Technician with an eye toward training them to move up to Planning and Land Use Administrator.

Consensus was to advertise for a Planning Technician, with the possibility of becoming a Planning and Land Use Administrator if qualifications and experience warranted making that promotion. Mr. Desmarais will contact the Town Administrator regarding the new advertisement.

Any Other Business Properly before the Board

No other business was taken up.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Jose, to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Clerk pro tem