

Charlemont Planning Board
January 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Bill Harker, Co-Chair, Robert Malone, Co-Chair, Carlene Hayden, Gisela Walker

Call to Order

Planning Board Co-Chair Bill Harker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item # 1: Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from their 12/21/2017 meeting. On a motion by Harker and seconded by Malone, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Item #2: Discussion on Class II and Class III Licenses

It was discussed that Frank Taylor wants to add his son's name to his Class III junk dealer license (issued by the Select Board). There is no existing Special Permit for this operation, as it was determined by the Planning Board previously that the operation pre-dates zoning bylaws and is therefore grandfathered. It was noted that he appears to be expanding the operation to the other side of the road. Discussion ensued as to whether the address on the license is the address for the business or the owner's address and whether expanding to the other side of the road is a change of use and would require a Special Permit. It was further discussed that some of these operations in town have possible wetlands violations on them and that the DEP has suggested that the Select Board should notify Conservation Commission when someone is applying for a license, so they can ensure there are no wetlands violations. Discussion then centered on whether it would be advisable to require all grandfathered operations, 20 years or older to come for a Special Permit, and whether this could be put on Town Meeting warrant. On a motion by Walker and seconded by Malone, it was unanimously voted to request a meeting with the Select Board to discuss Class II and Class III licenses. It was noted that they should ask for about 30 minutes in order to have enough time for the discussion. Hayden will request the appointment with the SB.

Item #3: Discussion on Recreational Marijuana Legalization

It was discussed that even though the Cannabis Control Commission regulations would be out by May 1st, and prospective proponents could apply for a permit, the Board would still like to institute a moratorium so they have time to better prepare. If someone should come with a proposal in the meantime, we can fall back on our Special Permit process. It was noted that since the medical marijuana regulations were superseded by the recreational marijuana regulations, we'll need to remove those from our bylaw and replace them with the recreational regs. The Select Board sent out a notice asking for suggested uses for the Local Technical Assistance funds. The Board would like to request LTA funds for FRCOG assistance with the marijuana moratorium, proposed revisions to their bylaws and regulations for recreational marijuana.

An email was read by Camille White, Chair of the Council on Aging, stating that she sees no positive benefits to allowing marijuana-related operations in Town. It is unclear if we can legally deny all recreational marijuana operations, if someone applies. There are upcoming workshop in February on the CCC's draft recreational marijuana regulations at the FRCOG. Some members will likely attend.

It was discussed that the Board will dedicate their February 1st meeting to drafting up the zoning bylaw amendments they have been discussing. The time being set for 6:30 p.m. to allow time to work on them.

Adjournment

Business having been completed, on a motion by Malone and seconded by Harker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is Thursday, February 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlene Hayden

Documents viewed in the Planning Board meeting of 1/18/2018

1. Agenda for meeting of 1/18/2018
2. Minutes from 12/21/2017 meeting
3. Frank Taylor and other Class II and Class III licenses
4. Local Technical Assistance Project Request from FRCOG, 1/16/2018
5. Email from Camille White, Chair Council on Aging, 1/14/2018
6. List of proposed amendments to the zoning bylaws