Whately Planning Board

Minutes of Virtual Meeting

May17, 2023

Present: Members Don Sluter, Judy Markland, Sara Cooper, Tom Litwin, Brant Cheikes

Members Absent: none

The meeting was held remotely, via Zoom.

Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The meeting was recorded.

Discussion of preparations for town meeting

The Board agreed that the capsule summaries written by Town Administrator Brian Domina of the three Planning Board articles are excellent and can stand on their own at Town Meeting. The Board will let the Town Moderator know in advance that there will be no remarks made in advance, and that the Planning Board will be available to answer any questions.

The Board discussed its revisions to the Aquifer Protection Overlay District, and intends in the coming months to possibly reevaluate the boundaries of the districts and to consider whether removing protections in some areas may have merit.

Re: Debilitating Medical Condition Treatment Centers’ Town Meeting presentation of their proposed request to add a Marijuana Manufacturing (Limited) zoning use to Whately’s zoning bylaws:

The Board agreed that if there are anyquestions, they will explain that the Board was divided on this matter, then have a Board member in favor of the change list the positive arguments, and a Board member opposed to the change list the negative arguments. Individual Board members may also offer their opinions if they wish.

Discussion of upcoming meetings

The board discussed their availability to meet with Megan Rhodes (Franklin Regional Council of Governments) about the Housing Production Plan, and to hold a joint public hearing about tree removal with Highway and Building Superintendent Keith Bardwell. June 14 worked best for the Board, and Brant will propose June 14 to both parties. If this takes place a meeting on the 28th will not be necessary. The next meeting will take place on May 31, for the JD Ross hearing.

Adjournment

At 5:27 pm Brant moved to adjourn and Don seconded the motion. Don, Brant, Sara, Judy, and Tom each voted Yes and the motion carried unanimously.

Mary McCarthy

Secretary, Planning Board

Town of Whately, MA