NEEDHAM PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

June 8, 2020

The Planning Board Virtual Meeting using Zoom was remotely called to order by Martin Jacobs, Chairman, on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 3:10 p.m. with Messrs. Alpert, Owens and Block and Ms. McKnight, as well as Planning Director, Ms. Newman and Assistant Planner, Ms. Clee.

Mr. Jacobs stated Town Meeting is to convene in the parking lot at the Memorial Field House at 5:00 p.m. He then took a roll call attendance of people expected to be on the agenda. He noted this is an open meeting that is being held remotely because of Governor Baker's executive order on March 12, 2020 due to the COVID Virus. All attendees are present by video. He reviewed the rules of conduct for zoom meetings. He noted if any votes are taken at the meeting the vote will be conducted by roll call.

Discussion of Annual Town Meeting Zoning Articles

Mr. Jacobs noted the Citizen's Petition Zoning By-law Amendment Article by Children's Hospital. Some questions were posed to the proponents and the Planning Board. Written answers to the 3 questions were posted on the Town website. He noted Ms. McKnight will be giving the presentation. It will be pre-recorded and posted on the website. Mr. Alpert commented one question asked in the emails was if Town Meeting members made a motion to amend to make the parking requirement more restrictive would the Planning Board support the amendment. Ms. McKnight commented that she expects the Board would not support that amendment. She proposed if someone made the motion, the Planning Board does not need to reconvene but could authorize her to respond that the Planning Board would not support the amendment. Mr. Jacobs stated the no-support response should be for less parking or more parking amendment. All agreed.

Mr. Block asked if the Board would be asked to comment on Article 10 regarding the appropriation for planning consultant assistance funds. Ms. McKnight stated Ms. Newman provided her an email with an explanation. She read the email for the other members. Mr. Block asked how much of the $60,000 would be used for the Highway Commercial 1 District. Ms. Newman would be giving an estimate due to fluctuations of the scope but she feels probably half of it would be used. It would depend how broad the scope is. Mr. Alpert asked about the Special Town Meeting Article 1 for the appropriation of $40,000 for planning. Ms. Newman noted that Article is being withdrawn.

Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Correspondence

Mr. Jacobs noted there was no correspondence.

Report of the Planning Director and Board members

Mr. Block asked if the Board members should try to sit together or if they need to stay with their precincts at Town Meeting. Ms. McKnight noted there would be separate gates for separate precincts for checking people in. If the members go early they may be able to be near each other. Ms. Newman suggested sitting near a microphone. Mr. Jacobs stated he would not be there but will be available for questions.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Alpert, and seconded by Mr. Block, it was by a roll call vote of the five members present unanimously:
VOTED: to recess the meeting at 3:30 p.m. until after Town Meeting adjourns.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna J. Kalinowski, Notetaker

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Jeanne S. McKnight, Vice-Chairman and Clerk