

Planning Board minutes 3/8/23

In attendance:

Van Stoddard, Richard Nathhorst, Ken Kahn, Steve Freedman, Tom Ewing, Tim Shores

Absent:

Swan Keyes

1. Minutes from the February meeting unanimously approved.
2. Discussed next steps for Comprehensive Plan and Steering Group recruitment.
 1. To give the Board more time to hear back from potential recruits, and to hear information about Swan's recruitment efforts, the Board decided not to vote on the current list of potential recruits. To expedite, the Board voted unanimously to schedule another March meeting (Tuesday, March 21, at 7:30 pm). The Board's goal at that meeting will be to finalize Steering Group appointments, if possible.
 2. The Board deliberated over whether to allow multiple members from the same household to join the Steering Group. Opinion was evenly divided on this issue. The Board decided to hold off on voting on this matter unless we end up with more than 15 candidate Steering Group members.
3. The Board unanimously voted to approve a communication plan with planning consultant Emily Innes. The plan is that Tom and Tim will be the primary points of contact with Emily.
4. Ken confirmed that he will not stand for reelection to the Planning Board this spring. After his term, Ken said that he will be available to advise the Planning Board, as needed.
5. Richard reported on the Energy Committee's progress with energy subject matter experts from UMass Extension that have been creating a survey for solar installations in Leverett. Richard will circulate the survey to all Planning Board members.
6. Ken observed that past changes made to the Site Plan Review Public Hearing Regulations simplified the notice requirements and removed the newspaper publication requirements to both make the process simpler for residents and less costly to the Town.