



Planning Board – Town of Spencer

Minutes

Planning Board Meeting

April 2, 2024, at 7:00pm

REMOTE & IN-PERSON

McCourt Social Hall, 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562

Memorial Town Hall

Planning Board Members Present: Chair Robert Ceppi (in-person), Vice Chair Shirley Shiver (in-person), Charlie Bellemer (in-person), and Vaughn Slack (in-person), Gina Beford (in-person)

Planning Board Members Absent:

Staff Present in-person: Lauren Vivier, Town Planner/ Conservation Agent (in-person), Monica Santerre-Gervais, ODIS Senior Clerk (remote), Sarah Campbell (Planning Assistant)

1. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:01 pm

2. General Board Discussion/ Board Liaison Reports

Ms. Vivier stated the site walk for North Brookfield Solar is tomorrow at 11:00 am. Ms. Vivier stated if the Board would like to go, please arrive at the Town Hall at 10:45 am.

3. Town Planner Report

Ms. Vivier did not provide a report.

4. Citizens Input

Matthew Defosse, 7 Paul's Drive, read a narrative regarding North Brookfield Solar. Mr. Defosse asked the Board if approving a slope waiver was the best decision and encouraged the Board to plan a site visit. Mr. Defosse mentioned the signs located on the property, and stated the Megawatts on the sign are different from what was approved originally by the Board. Mr. Defosse expressed concerns regarding how many different solar companies have bought the project over time.

Mr. Ceppi stated that the efficiency of the panels has improved since the Special Permit was approved years ago.

Roger Foss, 39 Gold Nugget Road, handed the Board a narrative regarding the Community Preservation Act. Mr. Foss stated the Act is Article 20 at the Annual Town Meeting and would need a second vote at the Annual Town Meeting in the fall. Mr. Foss explained the Act which would add a 1.5% surcharge on tax assessments after the first \$100,000. Mr. Foss stated low-income families and Chapter 59 would be exempt from the surcharge. Mr. Foss stated if the Act is passed a committee would need to be put in place which would consist of a member from the Planning Board.

Mr. Jeffrey Bridges, Town Administrator, stated the percentage for the surcharge is 1% on the town warrant.

5. Approve minutes for 3/19/2024

MOTION: to table the meeting minutes dated for March 19, 2024, motioned by Ms. Shiver

SECONDED: Mr. Bellemer

VOTE: R. Ceppi- aye, C. Bellemer- aye, V. Slack- aye, S. Shiver- aye, G. Beford- aye. (vote 5-0)

6. Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A,21(a) (6), To discuss a letter from the owner of Ash Street regarding the denied subdivision decision.

MOTION: to go into executive session and adjourn after, motioned by Ms. Shiver

SECONDED: Mr. Bellemer

VOTE: R. Ceppi- aye, C. Bellemer- aye, V. Slack- aye, S. Shiver- aye, G. Beford- aye. (vote 5-0)

6. Adjournment

MOTION: to adjourn, motioned by Mr. Bellemer

SECONDED: Ms. Beford

VOTE: R. Ceppi- aye, C. Bellemer- aye, V. Slack- aye, S. Shiver- aye, G. Beford- aye. (vote 5-0)

Submitted by Sarah Campbell, Planning Assistant

Reviewed by Monica Santerre-Gervais, ODIS Senior Clerk

Approved by the Planning Board on: May 7, 2024

List of Documents used on April 2, 2024

Items sent to Planning Board prior to Meeting by email:

- Agenda
- Ash Street Letter

Items submitted/ brought to the Meeting:

- None