

TOWN OF NAHANT

Planning Board

July 18, 2023

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm, stating that the hearing was properly noticed, and then calling the roll of those members attending:

Rob Steinberg – Chairman - Here

Sheila Hambleton – Here

Patrick O'Reilly – Here

Steven Viviano – Here

J Shannon Bianchi, Corresponding Secretary – Here

John Stabile – Here

Michelle Capano - Here

James Dolan – Not Here

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2023 meeting. Steve so moved, seconded by John. Shannon had not received the minutes. Chairman decided to defer approval to next meeting.

The Chairman then turned to the subject of what authority he has to run meetings and questions about the conduct of meets. As a point of information, Shannon asked the Chairman to describe the roles of each officers which the Chairman did. With respect to his own authority, the Chairman noted he has the power to set the agenda, recognize members and alternates to speak, and stop members from speaking. The Chair said that he needs to balance the need for efficiency and focus in a meeting with allowing each member to fully express their views. He noted that when he accepted the Chairman position he told everyone that he likes efficient meetings and doesn't believe meetings should last more than 60 to 90 minutes. The Chair noted that he has gravitated towards allowing everyone to express their views and, in fact, in setting the agenda for this meeting was criticized for not refusing to allow an agenda item that was not ripe for discussion. The Chair took the position with that member of the public that his general practice is to put on the agenda any item suggested by a member and then discuss whether the issue is ripe or relevant in open meeting.

The issue of the applicability of Roberts Rules was then discussed. The Chair noted that the rules of the Planning Board require adherence to Roberts Rules. Legal counsel noted that Robert Rules is rarely used in Board and Commission meetings because it requires the Chairman to take a passive role – recognize persons to speak, allow members of make motions, vote on those motions in the event of a tie vote , and open and adjourn the meeting. The Chair stated that preparation for meetings by him often involves hours of work to make recommendations and guide discussion and his view is that the Planning Board would accomplish very little if someone did not take the lead on discussions. Steve as well as Patrick recommended Roberts Rules usefulness in PB discussions should be an agenda item at the next meeting. Other agenda items were discussed. The Chair noted that a solicitation is out for a new member of replace Cal and we should have resumes for discussion by the next meeting. With respect to FEMA maps, Tony noted that this issues won't be ripe for discussion until early 2024. The Chair noted that a Mr. Yoo of DOT rejected our request for a study of the impact of the bike path on traffic on the Lynnway and that Josh Antrim objected to the decision with support from Gene Canty.

Next, the Chair noted that the Chairperson of the Conservation Commission reached out to him with respect to stormwater regulation that they need to issue and that the Planning Board may need to issue.

The Planning Board need to permit stormwater plan of parcels greater than an acre, and the ConComm needs to approve plans from 600 feet to 1 acre. One suggestion she made was that the ConComm issue draft regulations, send them to the PB for review and comment, and then that the PB and ConComm adopt them jointly for consistency. The Chair said he would bring the idea to the PB for discussion and views. The Chair and Shannon agreed that was a good approach.

Finally, the Chair noted that CPC funding to study Town-owned land started in July. Tony provide more information on this subject. The remaining topic was the Planning Board role on the study and improvement of Bear Pond. The Chair agreed it made sense for Shannon to speak with the Administrator about this topic, including , but not limited to, the objective of the study. Sheila asked Tony to provide a copy of what he has received relating to FEMA maps.

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Steve, and seconded by John. The vote was as follows:

Rob Steinberg – Chairman - Yes

Sheila Hambleton – Yes

Patrick O'Reilly – Yes

Steven Viviano – Yes

J Shannon Bianchi, Corresponding Secretary – Yes

John Stabile– Recording Secretary – Yes

Public meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary and Rob Steinberg.

Approved by Planning Board on August 1, 2023 .