

Planning Board Minutes
Ashfield Town Hall
October 7, 2015

Present: Michael Fitzgerald (MF), Chair
Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)
Ken Miller (KM)
Alan Rice (AR)
Meghan Bowen (MB), scribe

Absent: Jim Cutler (JC)

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 7:38 PM.

1. Board reviewed mail.
2. Board reviewed minutes from September 16, 2015. AR moved to accept minutes as amended, LPW seconded. All in favor, 4-0, motion carried.
3. LPW moved to nominate KM as Ashfield's representative to FRCOG, AR seconded. KM abstained from voting. All in favor, 3-0, motion carried. MB said that she will mail the form to FRCOG before the next meeting.
4. LPW brought Massachusetts House Bill number 2881, section 14 (c) to the Board for discussion. Section 14 (c), which proposes a commission to study and recommend the siting of energy facilities, states that this commission will "[create] a defined role for local community input into the siting process." LPW was concerned that this defined role may potentially limit towns' capacities to oppose siting of energy facilities in the future. MF said that the bill may afford towns more power in those matters.
5. The board discussed administrative issues. AR asked who has the power to post minutes and agendas aside from the town clerk. MB said that she would have the ability to post them when the webmaster for the town's website gives her an account. The board discussed strategies for staying up-to-date with with posting minutes and agendas until then.
6. AR contacted attorney Ellen Freyman (EF) with the coverage maps she requested (see minutes from September 2, 2015.) EF asked whether the next special town meeting had happened, and whether the board's telecommunications bylaw had been discussed. AR told her it had not happened yet.

7. AR asked whether the next special town meeting had been scheduled, and whether the board's telecommunications bylaw would be part of it. The board's consensus was that it had not been scheduled yet.
8. KM asked whether the board could request an inspection of the approved tower site, given the potential for overlapping coverage among new applicants. MF said that the board has the power to go to a site over which it has jurisdiction, but most often opts not to do so for political reasons.
9. MF said that he will edit the senior housing bylaw drafts and bring them to the next meeting.
10. The board discussed the agenda for the next meeting.
11. KM moved to adjourn the meeting, LPW seconded. All in favor, 4-0, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Bowen