

BEDFORD PLANNING BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Bedford High School – Guidance Office
March 27, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Gittins, Chair; Jacinda Barbehenn; Amy Lloyd; Steven Hagan and Todd Crowley

STAFF PRESENT: Tony Fields, Planning Director; Catherine Perry, Assistant Planner

Chair Gittins called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

BUSINESS SESSION

**Annual Town Meeting Preparation:
Article 22 – Two-Family Dwellings**

It was agreed that the Planning Board’s presentation is good to go.

Chair Gittins reported receiving a letter from Irene Gravina (who spoke at a previous Planning Board meeting). The letter expresses support for the zoning amendment, referring in particular to its potential to help families who have adult children with disabilities. Since Ms. Gravina cannot attend Town Meeting, the Chair intends to read the letter out.

Update on Remote Meetings

Director Fields reported that a two year extension of the remote meeting provisions has been passed by both chambers of state government and is awaiting the Governor’s signature. Some other temporary provisions are being extended as well. Ms. Perry noted that these include a one year extension for streamlined permitting of outdoor dining.

Mr. Fields noted that the ‘owl’ equipment for hybrid meetings is available in the Select Board room if the Planning Board wishes to use it.

MOTION: proposed by Member Barbehenn, seconded by Member Crowley, for the Planning board to continue to meet remotely, with occasional in-person meetings as needed, subject to the Governor signing the bill.

VOTE: 5-0

Members agreed to keep the regular meeting time at 7:00 pm.

Board Liaison Reports

Member Crowley reported that TAC met recently and is planning to hold some meetings remotely and some in-person.

Staff Reports

Assistant Planner Perry reported that she and others attended the Middlesex 3 Coalition meeting at Bedford on Friday. It gave a useful review of the current outlook. Director Fields mentioned that he was asked to speak about the MBTA Communities zoning provisions, and Middlesex 3 may take up our concern about the treatment of mixed use.

Minutes

The Board received the draft minutes of March 14.

MOTION: proposed by Member Lloyd, seconded by Member Crowley to approve the minutes.

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Member Barbehenn abstained as not present for the relevant meeting)

Adjournment

The Board voted to adjourn at 6:20 pm, and proceeded to the Annual Town Meeting.

Minutes prepared by Catherine Perry

Approved April 11, 2023

DOCUMENT LIST

Agenda

Memo from Planning Director Fields to Planning Board, dated March 27, 2023 with respect to matters to be taken up at the March 27, 2023 Planning Board Meeting

Press Release from Ali DiMatteo, MMA Legislative Analyst, dated March 23, 2023, titled "Legislature passes supplemental budget with pandemic-era extensions, key investments"

Draft minutes of Planning Board meeting on March 14, 2023

Boston Globe editorial dated March 22, 2023, "Campbell puts towns on notice: MBTA housing law isn't optional"

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Boston Globe article by Andrew Brinkler dated March 21, 2023 “High interest rates are keeping the Greater Boston housing market down this spring”