

Shutesbury Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes  
DRAFT Minutes – 05.18.2022  
(Approved – 06.13.2022)  
*Virtual Meeting*

**Meeting Start:** 5:00pm

**Members Present (PB):** Deacon Bonnar, Michael DeChiara, Jeff Lacy, Nathan Murphy, Steven Bressler, Robert Raymond

**Members Absent (PB):** Linda Rotondi, Robert Raymond

**Associate Members (PB):** None

**Associate Members Absent (PB):** Ashleigh Pyecroft, Jake Messier

**Members Present (ZBA):** Chuck DiMare, Jeff Lacy, and Herb Gilmore

**Other Staff Members:** Carey Marshall (LUC)

**Other Present:** Paul Lyons

Chair's Call to Order at 5:06pm

Meeting is being recorded

**5PM Public comment**

None

**Amendment to change ZBA membership from 3 to 5**

Lacy shares the Planning Board Report on the proposed Zoning Bylaw to Increase Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) from Three Members to Five Members with the Planning board (PB). Lacy: He asked the Chair, Deacon Bonnar, to convene tonight's meeting because he changed the report that was approved last meeting after learning the Zoning Board of Appeals' Chair and a member are resigning effective July 2, 2022 – making Lacy the Chair, if re-appointed, and the only member on the board until new members are appointed. He has changed the report to reflect the PB not recommending the increase in members proposal because it would be easier for him to train two new members rather than 4. PB agrees. Raymond asks if the report addresses the associate member issue for the ZBA? Lacy: It doesn't – ZBA has always had the capacity to have associate members. DiMare recommends changing the effective resignation date of July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> because on July 2<sup>nd</sup> he and Gilmore will no longer have authority. Lacy changes it as so. DiMare: He asks, since the PB likes the benefits of having a 5 member ZBA, if PB would consider supporting the proposal at Town Meeting and change the proposed amendment to be effective at a certain date - giving the ZBA time to have a solid 3 member board before expanding into 5 members as desired. DeChiara: He states that due to Lacy's concern of having to find people to appoint and train it would be best for him to start with the 3 member board and once comfortable this proposed amendment can be revisited rather than being committed to a date. Bonnar: PB has been in support for a 5 member ZBA for a while and he would like to see PB support the proposal at Annual Town Meeting with a set date as DiMare suggested. Raymond supports Lacy's revised report for the reasons Lacy has listed and understands the struggle in

getting new members for boards. Bressler also supports Lacy's revised report and states that if the ZBA can get a solid 3 member for a year then the proposal can be revisited – supports 5 member ZBA but timing is off. DiMare raises concern about the citizen's petition that is in regards to this same proposal and is on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting – many citizens have signed it and would like to see it pass. DeChiara: He understands and agrees with the concern but the proposed bylaw will be heard before the petition – he is hoping that after discussion of the bylaw that the citizens would understand and pull the petition from the warrant. He recommends that in the report it should read that the PB previously supported the proposed amendment but due to new circumstances the PB no longer recommends it but it can be revisited at a better time. Lacy agrees and changes the report to reflect so. Murphy suggests adding language stating that the PB believes that finding and training four new members would be impractical and runs the risk of being not fully functional. PB agrees and Lacy adds it to reflect Murphy's comment. **Motion: DeChiara moves to approve the PB Report regarding the ZBA Member Increase amendment as modified, Murphy seconds. Vote: Bressler-Aye, Murphy-Aye, Raymond-Aye, Lacy-Aye, Bonnar-Aye, DeChiara-Aye. So moves. Lacy will send the approved PB report to PB members, Select Board, Town Administrator, Becky Torres, and Moderator, Paul Lyons.**

Lyons asks the PB what their motion regarding this proposed amendment be at Annual Town Meeting. The PB agrees to a motion to pass over this amendment at Annual Town Meeting.

Lyons informs the PB that he was waiting to see the discussion made tonight so that he may relay this discussion to the citizen who gathered the petition to see how they would like to proceed.

### **Wheelock**

Lacy: He went for a site visit on Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm with Joel Walker and the road work done in last fall and winter has held up well – great materials used and will continue to be used (no erosion). He had a discussion with Walker about what was being done to make the ditches hard, deeper and less erosive. He checked the basin which had 'the least amount of water in it he has ever seen'. Walker is working with a Vermont contractor which is ongoing and should finish within a week. He informed Walker that that PB would most likely revisit with Conservation Commission once it has been completed.

**Motion to Adjourn: Bressler moves to adjourn, Murphy seconds. Vote: Bressler-Aye, Murphy-Aye, Raymond-Aye, Lacy-Aye, Bonnar-Aye, DeChiara-Aye. So moves.**

**Meeting Close: 5:48pm**