

Charlemont Planning Board

Meeting 6/16/2016

Minutes

Members present: Robert Malone, Chair, Carlene Hayden, Gisela Walker, Bill Harker, Dan Miller, alternate.
Jon Schafer for Berkshire East.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.06 pm

Motion to accept minutes of 5/19/16 (GW moved, RM second, all in favor)

CH brought up the town administrator's interest in the Green Communities Act and submitted additional information about it. If the town fulfilled the requirements of this program it would make the town eligible for certain State grants. The Planning Board had discussed this at an earlier meeting quite a while ago and was not in favor because it would have committed the town to a much stricter Building Code. Though this building code (Stretch Code) is now State law, the P Bd still feels ambivalent about whether the potential grants are worth all the work involved in becoming certified as a green community.

Another question put before the Board is the renewal/updating of the Open Space Plan. This requires a considerable commitment by the town and would receive staff support from the DLTA program of the FRCOG. The Board could meet with the select board on July 18 if they are interested.

The Planning Board has the use of a safe for executive meeting materials; we are happy to share the safe with the town administrator as we have no use for it at this point. (RM moved, GW 2nd, unanimous)

The Chair opens the Public Hearing at 7.35 pm

Bill Harker stated for the record that he is an abutter to B. East and recused himself from the hearing.

Berkshire East submitted a Special Permit application to construct an aerial adventure course for young people consisting of ten platforms in trees connected by netted challenge pathways.

The Board reviewed the plans and asked specific question of Mr. Schafer. The Board thought the project to be particularly well fitted into the overall operation and having a new target audience for the younger members of visiting families. Mr. Schafer stated that overall security and safety of the operation will be reviewed by the Dpt. Of Public Safety. The hours of operation will run concurrent with other appropriate activities.

GW moved, RM seconded to approve the project as described in the plans submitted and the Notice of Decision to be filed with the town clerk. The motion was approved by all four voting members.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 8.05 p.m.

Mr. Schafer wanted it recorded here in the minutes that Berkshire East has started construction on the new ski trail permitted just about 2 years ago.

The Board moved on to Nominations of Officers since recent town elections:

BH moved and CH seconded to keep the present slate of Robert Malone as Chair and Carlene Hayden as Clerk. Incumbents stated that they are willing to accept nominations except that the Clerk needs it to be understood that the Board will continue to rotate the preparation of the minutes among all Board members.

The vote to accept the present slate of officers for the coming year was approved unanimously. GW thanked the officers for their service.

Submitted by Gisela Walker