

**Charlemont Planning Board
February 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Bill Harker, Co-Chair, Robert Malone, Co-Chair, Carlene Hayden

Members Absent: Gisela Walker

Others Present: Jonathan Mirin

Call to Order

Planning Board Co-Chair Harker called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

Item # 1: Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from their 2/1/2018 meeting. On a motion by Harker and seconded by Hayden, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Item #2: 7:00 Appointment; Jonathan Mirin, Solar Bylaws

Mirin attended the meeting to discuss the potential health effects of the new 5G (5th Generation wireless technology) commercial rollout, slated for the end of 2018. He explained wireless companies will look to install millions of wireless small cell antennas on utility poles in residential neighborhoods, which emit harmful microwave radiation. Mirin felt this would pose a serious health crisis-scientific studies have shown harmful effects to humans and wildlife.

Mirin also cautioned that new FCC regulations will undermine local authority and will include a “shot Clock” rule, which limits the time frame a community has to respond to a carrier application. He suggested that communities be proactive and update their cell tower bylaws to include and protect from these smaller, wireless mini cell towers. Hayden asked if he had a chance to review Charlemont’s cell tower bylaw. Mirin stated he did notice that our bylaw requires a cell tower to be no closer than 800’ from a residence, but that studies have shown there to be effects from as far away as 1,500’.

Mirin handed out an informational sheet and Shelburne’s proposed revisions to their zoning bylaws to include these small cell antennas. The Board explained they were currently working on bylaw revisions and if Mirin could submit some suggested changes, they could possibly be incorporated with their current revisions. Mirin agreed to try to get together some suggestions and would come back to discuss this further on March 15th. Mirin thanked the Board for their time.

Item #3: Zoning Bylaw Revisions and Timeline

Hayden passed out a timeline for their zoning bylaw revisions, with upcoming meeting dates through Annual Town Meeting in May. She also handed out a draft of their proposed revisions, including amendments to their definitions, use table, dimensional schedule and some previously omitted language. The Board felt the revisions looked good.

Next, the Board of Health’s draft Temporary Occupancy regulations were reviewed, which included definitions and time limits. The Board will discuss this more in depth when the whole Board is present. It was noted that their next meeting on March 1st would concentrate on assembling the revisions to present to the Select Board at their meeting with them on March 5th.

Item #4: Review Mail & Correspondence

The Board reviewed the building report for January, 2018 and a hearing notice for the Town of Shelburne.

Adjournment

Business having been completed, on a motion by Malone and seconded by Harker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is Thursday, March 1st at ?? p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Hayden

Documents viewed in the Planning Board meeting of 2/15/2018

1. Agenda for meeting of 2/15/2018
2. Minutes from 2/1/2018 meeting
3. What you Need to Know About 5G Wireless and Small Cells handout (www.ehtrust.org)
4. Shelburne proposed tweaks to their zoning bylaws
5. Upcoming Meetings and Zoning Bylaw Timeline
6. List of proposed revisions to the zoning bylaws:
 - a. Section 32.2: Use Table
 - b. Section 33: Dimensional Requirements
 - c. Article V: Definitions
7. Public Hearing notice from Shelburne Planning Board