

**PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARINGS of the PLANNING BOARD
TOWN of DAMARISCOTTA
May 3, 2021 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS: Jonathan Eaton, Chairperson; Jenny Begin, Neil Genthner, Wilder Hunt and Ann Jackson

ALTERNATES: Dan Day, Gary Rosenthal, and B. Batchelder

ABSENTEES: W. Hunt, G. Rosenthal and B. Batchelder

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Faunce, Interim Town Planner; Lynda Letteney, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by **Chairperson Eaton** Pledge was dispensed with as meeting was via Zoom and no flag was present.

On motion (Genthner/Jackson) to have Dan Day fill in for Wilder Hunt **Vote: 4-0-0**

II. MINUTES

On motion (Day/Jackson) to approve the minutes of 4/5/21 as distributed. **Vote: 5-0-0**

Before the business meeting began, Robert Faunce brought up changes in meeting dates for the next two months. Because of voting and Town Meeting June8-9 the Planning Board meeting for June will be held **June 14, 2021**. Because of the Fourth of July holiday, they will meet on **July 12, 2021**. Both meetings are at 6 pm. Expectation, depending on wiring of Town Office for fiber optic internet, is that these will be in person at the Town Office with LCTV capabilities for the citizenry.

III. BUSINESS MEETING

A. OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed Formula Business Ordinance - Public Hearing

Chairperson Eaton began the discussion by saying he was not opposed to the ordinance as long as it was just downtown (C1). He thinks the ordinance may be a little general, but it is simple and quickly gets this in place. He said Stan Waltz brought up the issue of “formula businesses” that do not have a lot of “in and out” traffic, i.e. H&R Block. **Jenny Begin** reminded the Board this only deals with formula businesses that are retail sales establishments. **Robert Faunce** added that banks, insurance firms, etc. are not an issue. This is primarily food/take out establishments that are most impacted; coffee/fast food most likely (Starbucks, Burger King, etc.) **Jenny** felt it doesn’t go far enough, limiting to just downtown. **Jonathan Eaton** reiterated it applies just to downtown Damariscotta. **Jenny** said it was fine for now. She is thinking holistically about C2. **Jonathan** said he was not against opportunities for others. **Jenny** felt not expanding to C2 would be devastating to local businesses. **Jonathan** felt the area would not support something like an Applebee’s downtown. **Bob Faunce** used an example of Burger King in Boothbay Harbor. **Jenny** said that wasn’t a good example as they were only open six months a year.

Bob said a better example would be Subway. Would they want a Subway downtown where there already are 2 sub shops downtown – Fernald’s and Metcalf’s? The question is just C1 or include C2. C2 already takes everything else. You can’t exclude from C2 as there are already formula businesses in C2. **Neil Genthner** agrees with Jonathan. He wants to protect downtown and wants the ordinance to go no further than Church Street. **Jenny** added that she thought York had a formula business ordinance. **Bob** said that it must only be downtown because Rt. 1 has many formula businesses in York. Seeing no members of the public on this Zoom meeting, **Jonathan Eaton** closed discussion at 6:15 p.m.

On motion (Begin/Day) to move the ordinance on to the Selectmen to put on the Warrant.

Vote: 5-0-0

B. NEW BUSINESS: None

C. OTHER

1. Questions from the Public - None

2. Housekeeping – Bob updated the Planning Board on the LCTV/internet connection situation. Long-term the goal is to have all Town meetings broadcasted live by LCTV. Zoom meetings from the Town Office are terrible with constant interruptions of connectivity. With LCTV people can watch and text to Bob any questions or comments. In turn those will be read to the Board for immediate response. However, a better internet set up is needed to do this. Lincolnville is the fiber optic provider. **Neil Genthner** asked if anyone else had questions about the LCTV service. **Jonathan** expressed concern about opening a can of worms. Watching from the comfort of home could lead to some becoming obstinate or rude, etc. **Neil** reminded Jonathan that they are not “live”; there is a screening process in place. **Jonathan** felt they could be bombarded with very opinionated citizens. “Let’s see how it works out,” was Jonathan’s last comment. **Jonathan** closed the housekeeping session at 6:20 p.m.

3. Planner’s Report- none

D. Adjournment

On motion (Genthner/Begin) to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Letteney
Recording Secretary

We the undersigned approve the minutes for the Planning Board Meeting of May 3, 2021.

Jonathan Eaton, Chairperson

Minutes of the Planning Board (May 3, 2021) cont'd:

Jenny Begin

Neil Genthner

 Absent
Wilder Hunt

Ann Jackson

Daniel Day (alternate)

Minutes for (5/3/21) signed: _____
Date

