

TOWN OF AMHERST
Planning Board

May 6, 2020

APPROVED

During the first public part of the agenda for this meeting held via Zoom, the Board entered into non-public session (see separate minutes).

The Board ended the first part of the public Planning Board meeting and entered a new separate Zoom meeting for the non-public session at 6:40 p.m. +/-

In attendance: Arnie Rosenblatt - Chair, Cynthia Dokmo, Dwight Brew-Selectman Ex-Officio, Marilyn Peterman, Mike Dell Orfano, Bill Stoughton, Brian Coogan, Christy Houpis (Alternate), Tracie Adams (Alternate) and Chris Yates (Alternate).

Staff present: Nic Strong, Community Development Director.

Arnie Rosenblatt stated that the Board was in non-public session to discuss two written opinions from William Drescher, Esq., Town Counsel, and whether to waive the Town's privilege and provide the letters to the public or to tell the public that the Board was in receipt of the letters and provide a summary or to deal with these opinions in some other manner. Arnie Rosenblatt noted that there were also two verbal opinions that the Board could consider as well.

The Board discussed releasing the letters in order to get them to the public and also releasing only an abbreviated version of the letters or some kind of summary of them. The Board determined to deal only with the two written opinions that they were in receipt of, and deal with any others at future meetings when they are received.

Marilyn Peterman MOVED to release abbreviated versions of the opinion letters from Town Counsel. Mike Dell Orfano seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote:

Cynthia Dokmo - NAY

Brian Coogan - NAY

Bill Stoughton - NAY

Marilyn Peterman - AYE

Mike Dell Orfano - AYE

Dwight Brew - NAY

Motion FAILED 2-4-0.

Dwight Brew MOVED to make public the letters from the Town Attorney in the matters of Prew/Clearview and Jacobson. Bill Stoughton seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote.

Mike Dell Orfano - NAY

Marilyn Peterman - NAY

Dwight Brew - AYE

Cynthia Dokmo - AYE

Brian Coogan - AYE

Bill Stoughton - AYE

Motion PASSED 4-2-0.

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The Board determined to post the two letters on the Town's website.

Cynthia Dokmo MOVED to exit non-public session. Dwight Brew seconded the motion.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote.

Mike Dell Orfano - AYE

Marilyn Peterman - AYE

Dwight Brew - AYE

Cynthia Dokmo - AYE

Bill Stoughton - AYE

Brian Coogan - AYE

The motion PASSED unanimously.

The Board determined that there was no legal reason to seal the minutes.

The Board ended the Zoom session to enter into a separate Zoom session for Part 2 of the public meeting agenda at 7:10 p.m. +/-.

See separate Planning Board minutes of the public sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Nic Strong
Community Development Director

Minutes approved: May 20, 2020