

**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Remote Public Meeting**

**Members Present:** Peter Driscoll (Chair), Mark Sprague (Vice Chair), Michael Gorr, Erik Neyland, James Barr, Bob Roemer (Associate)  
**Also Present:** Valerie Oorthuys (Town Planner)

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this public meeting of the Town of Bolton Planning Board was conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public were permitted, but the public can access this meeting while in progress using **Zoom Video Communications, Inc. (Zoom)**. Members of the public attending this meeting virtually were allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment, by telephone, cell phone or personal computer using Zoom.

Directions to connect to the public meeting were provided on the agenda.

A roll call was conducted of all Planning Board members present: Pete Driscoll (Chair)- Yes  
Mark Sprague - Yes; Erik Neyland- Yes; Michael Gorr-Yes, Bob Roemer (Associate)- Yes.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Planner's Report**

*Green Communities*

Town Planner and DPW Director met with Guardian Energy to discuss potential projects for the October 2022 Green Communities grant round.

*MassTrails Grant*

The grant application for the design and engineering of an off-road shared use path from Memorial Field east to the Council on Aging was denied. Staff will request further feedback.

*Comprehensive Permits*

Decisions for both the 580 Main multifamily development and the Mallard Lane development are currently being drafted.

*Construction Updates*

The Keyes Farm road covenant expires July 2023. Staff have reached out to Town Counsel to discuss whether any preparatory steps can be taken at this time. In addition, the Century Mill Estates deadline for construction is September 22, 2022. The Town Planner does not recommend an extension of this deadline.

*Climate Resiliency Bylaw Training*

The Town Planner attended a recent training organized by the Southeast New England Network. The training provided a tool to grade bylaws and rules and regulations against best practices. The tool also assists in indicating inconsistencies between bylaws.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Scenic Road and Shade Tree Joint Public Hearing with Tree Warden: Removal of one 36" diameter Oak, 0 Sawyer Road**

#### *Present:*

Randy Heglin, DPW Director

Mark Caisse, Tree Warden

Chair Pete Driscoll read the public hearing notice to open the public hearing.

Randy Heglin provided an overview of the need for the tree removal, as it is related to the DPW's culvert replacement project in the vicinity of 137 Sawyer Road. The tree is located to the south of Sawyer Road. The engineer for the project previously raised the concern that the location of the tree may pose a hazard for the repair project or the roots could be damaged during the normal course of the project.

#### *Jim Barr arrived.*

Mark Caisse added that the tree is in good health and alternatives, such as trimming the tree and providing tree protection, have been discussed. The DPW is looking for conditional consent to remove the tree, should the need come up during culvert repair. Mark Caisse noted the conditions could include moderate tree protection while allowing removal should there be any damage to the tree during construction.

Bob Roemer shared the importance of preserving large canopy trees, providing research showing that one 54" diameter tree could store as much carbon as 35 12" diameter trees or 151 6" diameter street trees or 465 4" diameter trees.

#### *Public Comment*

Ken Nicewicz, 116 Sawyer Road, expressed his wish to have the tree remain and stressed the importance of the culvert repair project.

Martha Remington, 447 Main Street, expressed interest in having the tree remain.

Don Munyon, 137 Sawyer Road, noted that he is a direct abutter to the project and stated interest in having the tree remain and expressed his concern with approval of a conditional plan to remove the tree.

The Planning Board discussed providing a conditional approval to clarify that moderate tree protection must be provided prior to site disturbance, the Tree Warden shall be present at excavation if available, and the Tree Warden must be consulted in case the tree needs to be

removed. In addition, if the tree is recommended to be removed through the course of construction, removal will include stump grinding.

Michael Gorr moved to close the public hearing. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Sprague. **All in favor by roll call: Pete Driscoll (Chair)- Yes, Erik Neyland- Yes; Michael Gorr-Yes; Mark Sprague- Yes (4/0/0).**

Michael Gorr moved to approve the removal of one 36" diameter tree at 0 Sawyer Road, if deemed necessary through the course of construction, and on the condition that moderate tree protection is provided and that the Tree Warden is present during excavation if possible and consulted if removal is recommended. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Sprague. **All in favor by roll call: Pete Driscoll (Chair)- Yes, Erik Neyland- Yes; Michael Gorr-Yes; Mark Sprague- Yes (4/0/0).**

Erik Neyland moved to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Barr. **All in favor by roll call: Pete Driscoll (Chair)- Yes, Michael Gorr- Yes; Erik Neyland- Yes; James Barr-Yes; Mark Sprague- Yes; Bob Roemer- Yes (6/0/0).**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Valerie Oorthuys