

MIDDLEFIELD PLANNING BOARD
3/4/2013
MEETING MINUTES

This meeting was called for the purpose of meeting with the Building Commissioner to hear his comments on the proposed changes to the zoning bylaw. The Commissioner had indicated to some members of the Board at the March 2nd informational meeting that he was not yet prepared to make comments on the changes. As the meeting had been scheduled and posted, the Board did meet in the Building Commissioner's office, although he was not present.

The meeting was called to order at 3:55. Board members present were Michael Hale, Terry Crean, Janine Savoy, Alan Vint and Maureen Sullivan.

The Board discussed some of the comments and reactions that were heard at the March 2nd informational meeting. Some members voiced concerns that the Board should have defended its work and that the negative comments came from 5 or so individuals.

From some of comments that were heard it seemed that the Use Table was considered to be confusing and should be simplified. It was suggested that many people are not used to reading things like the Use Table matrix.

Meeting protocol at more open forums, such as the informational meetings was touched upon. Needing to set the ground rules for the meeting prior to opening up public comment was stress. Having a plan for closing down or gaining control of a meeting where a member or members of the public fail to follow the protocol should be developed. Having a constable on hand for this type of meeting or at a public hearing is essential.

Setting a date for a public hearing would be delayed until the Board speaks with the Building Commissioner and gains some feedback from Larry Smith.

Splitting up the vote on the proposed changes was suggested so that the project would not be so overwhelming.

Making the tables more user-friendly and the definitions for Accessory Use and Principle Use need to be front and center.

Janine Savoy, Terry Crean and Maureen Sullivan expressed a wish to see the town meeting vote on the proposed changes be delayed until the tables are more clear and accessible. Creating a "How to Read the Bylaw" instruction page was proposed.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously approved at 4:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Sullivan, Secretary