

New Braintree Planning Board Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Present: Genevieve Stillman, Chair; Jody Kablack, Dave Thompson, Jason Ayer

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 pm.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

- Notification of Conversion of Use of Chapter 61A Property located at 2643 Barre Rd, Landowner Virginia Brodmerkle dated January 4, 2022.

The Board discussed the merits of appraising the land. The Select Board indicated that they were also interested in appraising the property. J. Kablack stated that the East Quabbin Land Trust could be contacted to see if they would fund an appraisal, and that preliminary discussions with Cynthia Henshaw, EQLT Executive Director, were positive.

Deb Morrison noted that the Open Space Plan is complete and one of the goals is to review all the Chapter 61A properties. She thinks this parcel could be significant for open space purposes.

A motion was made by D. Thomposn, seconded by J. Ayer and voted unanimously to send a letter to the BOS supporting commissioning an appraisal, and contacting the EQLT to see if they would fund the appraisal.

Deb Morrison gave the Board a copy of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and stated that there are action items in the Plan for each of the town boards. She asked the Planning Board to review it and discuss their action items.

ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

- Summit Solar, 40 Hardwick Road

It was determined by the Chair that this discussion item did not need to be in Executive Session. The Board is in receipt of the Post-Trial Brief of Defendants Planning Board and Select Board for Summit Solar Farm, 40 Hardwick Road. The Select Board has indicated that they are unhappy with the legal costs to the Town for this application. The most recent bill for \$5,700 was for the preparation of a post-trial brief which was filed with the Land Court. We do not expect any further bills on this. The next step is the filing of a decision by the Land Court judge.

J. Kablack has asked the Select Board for copies of all the legal bills for this case so that the Plan Bd is aware of the costs for this application as well as future ones. We have not received this information to date. G. Stillman was requested to ask Town Counsel to itemize their bills for this case and send them to us.

The Board discussed next steps when the decision is rendered. It was decided to seek a meeting with the Select Board regarding this issue. J. Kablack will request a meeting through the Town Administrator.

Adjourned 7:45 pm