

Montague Planning Board

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July 28, 2020 6:30 PM

Meeting held remotely in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Ron Sicard (Chair), Fred Bowman, George Cook, Elizabeth Irving, Matt Lord, Bob Obear

Staff: Walter Ramsey, Suzanne LoManto

This meeting was recorded.

6:30pm Ron Sicard opened the meeting. Roll Call

6:30 Approval of Minutes

Approval of the June 23, 2020 Minutes. MOTION by RS to accept. Vote EI(Y) GC(Y) FB(Y) RS(Y) MOTION PASSES

6:31pm: Topic Not Anticipated: Update to SP 2018-03 Solar project at Millers Falls Road

Present: Tom Holt (Kearsarge)

WR informs the Board that project is under construction. Kearsarge has informed town that Eversource is requiring the interconnect poles to be relocated from the approved plans. According to Holt, Eversource can not install a line on a pole that turns. More trees will be removed so the line is straight and the poles are as close to the street as possible. The advantage is that the poles will not block the Tech School sign. Tom Holt asks for permission to remove 20' of select trees for the safety clearance. When the interconnect is up, they will return to the Board to discuss a plan to mitigate the look of the fence and erosion control. Native and deer resistant plants will be used been proposed.

MOTION to authorized Kearsarge to remove vegetation as discussed with an understanding that they will return at the 9/20 Board meeting with a plan to mitigate the visual impacts of the new interconnection. MOTION by RS Secoded by EI(Y), GC(Y), FB(Y), RD(Y), MOTION PASSES

6:42pm: Correspondence: Small Cell Technology

Present: Lenore Alineas (concerned resident)

WR reads a letter by Kirstin Beatty representing Last Tree Laws regarding concerns about propagation of small cell technology. Montague's zoning bylaws state that new towers require a special permit, unless cells are installed on existing utility poles which is by-right. Some communities regulate small cell technology which serves a smaller radius but is faster. It is agreed that the Board needs more information. WR will communicate with other planners to learn how other communities are approaching this issue. EI urges that the town identify information from sources that have not been sent to us. Lenore Alineas, a resident speaks as someone who supports the letter. She concerned about personal 5G

exposure, damage to wildlife, and that the telecommunication industry will approach Montague about installing small cell- 5G infrastructure. The Board will revisit the issue in a few months.

6:53 PM Planner Report

- MassDOT Shared Spaces Grant Application project: Third Street Gateway

WR reviews the plan for temporary painted sidewalks, bump outs and traffic calming, digital speed-back sign in front of 149 Third Street and the intersection with L Street for the purpose of improving connections and walkability.

- Sandy Lane Burn Dump Solar

WR: About an acre of dumping grounds was found outside the project area which will increase the cost. BO asked who missed the extra acre. WR: The mistake was made because the records are spotty and old. There are some contingencies but this problem is expensive. They are working on the extra cost.

- Strathmore Abatement

Work continues and will be done by August. Smokestack is next to be removed. Approval from FirstLight has been difficult. Most bricks will be removed by drone. The Town will publicize the removal.

- Spinner Park

Demolition is completed. Construction should start soon and wrap up late Fall

- Outdoor dining permits. The Town has been able to accommodate restaurants in a satisfactory manner

MOTION by RS to adjourn. Seconded by GC vote is unanimous. MOTION PASSES 7:12PM

Approved by: _____ Date: _____