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**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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**Planning Board
Minutes
March 17, 2022**

Present: Alan Rosenberg, Co-chair (voting)
Eric Bernstein, Co-chair (voting)
Chris Duncan, Member (voting)
Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative (voting)
Steve Russo, Selectboard Representative Alternate
Scott Grenier, Alternate (Voting for Ron)
Dennis Bechis, Alternate
Eric Pauer, Alternate (Via Zoom)

Absent: Valérie Rearick, Town Planner, and Ron Pelletier, Member.

Alan called the meeting to order and read the rules for a hybrid meeting:

- Any meeting attendees participating via Zoom are asked to activate the “mute” function until called upon by the chair
- Meeting attendees via Zoom must use the “raise hand” function under the “reactions” tab to participate in the meeting – and will be permitted to comment once and if called upon by the chair
- Anyone providing comments during the meeting must first identify their name and address
- The “chat” function for Zoom participants will be disabled by the meeting administrator or otherwise not addressed; “chat” items will not be part of the public meeting/record
- Meeting attendees via Zoom will not be listed as attendees in the minutes (except Board members)
- The meeting’s physical location is the official meeting room. Should technical difficulties arise with the remote portion, the meeting will continue at the physical location.

Alan asked Scott to vote for Ron. **Scott** agreed.

Mail

Alan read the email from The Town Administrator clarification on the Monius property (23/25 Main Street, lot number H-42) discussed at the last Planning Board meeting:

“Eric and Rosie:

The Selectboard asked that I follow up with you regarding a comment that was made during last week’s Planning Board meeting – for purposes of clarification. By way of this email, I am asking Val to have this email printed and included in the mail folder for the March Planning Board meeting.

During last week’s meeting an attendee asked if the Monius property had been offered to the town. The response given was that the town had been offered the land around 15 years ago. While true, the town was offered the property more recently and while investigating the merits of a potential purchase, the property was put under a purchase & sale agreement.

*Should the question come up again, we wanted you to be aware of this information.
Tad Putney, Town Administrator, Brookline”*

Alan read an email sent by Ann Somers:

*“I am really struggling as I read minutes to identify the parcels under consideration at any given time. Going to Avatar with a letter-number combo has gotten me to modern homes when I was expecting undeveloped lots, for example. And I thought I knew what I was doing there! I think it would be very helpful to the general public if the Planning Board would make it a routine practice to include - in both discussion and minutes - the street address of whatever property you are discussing along with the plot number that all of you probably identify quickly.
Hopefully-Ann”*

The Board agreed when they discuss a lot, they will give the lot number and the location they are discussing. Also make sure it is written out on the agendas, minutes, and public hearing notices.

Minutes

Chris made a motion to approve the February 17, 2022, minutes as amended. Eric B seconded. Vote yes 4-0.

Eric B. Made a motion to approve the February 17, 2022, sealed Non-public minutes. Chris seconded. Vote yes 4-0.

Membership- recommend to Selectboard to appoint/reappoint members/alternates

Alan said it was voted in at town meeting that the Planning Board members be elected and not appointed by the Selectboard. Tad was asked to contact legal because the RSA didn’t speak to the alternate members of the board. **Tad** said it seems that the alternate positions would eventually go away. **Alan** said next year when a term expires, they will need to run for election. The alternate positions will eventually go away by 2025 and this will leave a five member board. The Planning board is allowed to have 7 members, that would need to be voted in at a town meeting.

Expiring Terms in 2022 are Eric B. and Ron both full members, and Dennis as an alternate member of the Planning Board. Dennis could carry on for a three year alternate term if he would like to. **Alan** said going forward, for example, Chris has a term expiring in 2023 he would need to be elected as opposed to appointed next year. **Eric** and **Dennis** both agreed to another 3-year term.

Alan said they have received a letter from Ron:

“Dear Planning Board members:

I had hoped to do this in person though circumstances came up that prevented me from doing so. After serving on the Planning Board for the last thirteen years I have decided it is time to step down. I have enjoyed working with all you, and also past members, some who are no longer with us. I plan on staying on the Economic Development Committee if they will have me.

I would like at this time to nominate Scott Grenier to be a full member of the board. I think He will be a great asset to the board. He has attended most if not all meetings since He became an alternate and provides good input. Please nominate him in my absence. Thank you for the pleasure of working with you, Sincerely, Ron Pelletier”

Alan thanked Ron for his years of service on the Planning Board.

Brendan said he wishes Ron well and thanks him for all his years of services on the Planning Board.

Brendan made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that Scott Grenier be appointed as a Full Member of the Planning Board with a term expiring in March 31, 2025. Eric B. Seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Brendan made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that Eric Bernstein be reappointed as a full member of the Planning Board with a term expiring in March 31, 2025. Scott seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Chris made a motion that Dennis Bechis be reappointed as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term expiring March 31, 2025. Eric B. seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Bylaws

After discussing that the Planning Board members will be elected starting next year and suggesting a couple changes that may potentially need to be made to the Planning Board By-Laws before adopting, **Chris** suggested that they table this discussion until the April meeting. **Brendan** requested that this be document be changed to a gender neutral document. The board agreed. **Brendan made a motion to table the By-Laws adoption for the April Planning Board meeting. Chris seconded. Vote yes 5-0.**

Town Planner Applications

Discussion between the Board and Tad (Town Administrator) about the applications for the Town Planner position. Tad will bring the one or two most qualified applications to the Planning Board to review and to add any comments or input they may have. They may be able to have this discussion at the April meeting.

Non-Public

Brendan made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (I) consideration of Legal advice and adjourn immediately after. Chris Seconded. Roll Call Vote Alan, Eric, Brendan, Scott, Chris all voted yes.

Brendan made a motion to come out of non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation and (I) Legal and seal the minutes. Seconded by Eric. Chris Seconded. Roll Call Vote Alan, Eric, Brendan, Scott, Chris all voted yes.

Adjourn

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Alan seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

Alan Rosenberg, Co-chair _____

Eric Bernstein, Co-Chair, _____

Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative _____

Chris Duncan, Member _____

Scott Grenier, Alternate (voting for Ron), _____

Minutes submitted by Kristen Austin.

Next scheduled Planning Board Meeting will be April 21, 2022