

**Newton Board of Appeals**

**2 Town Hall Road**

**Newton, NH 03858**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of July 13, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER at 7:30 PM by Tom McElroy, Chairman**

**ROLL CALL: Tom McElroy, Chairman; Jack Kozec, Frank Gibbs, Michael Connolly, Alan French, and Alternate Roger Hamel; Laura MacKenzie, recording Minutes (Full board attendance).**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: A Motion to accept the Minutes of the Meeting on June 15, 2020. The Motion was made by Chairman McElroy. Motion passed**

**Hearing for Rt. 125 Development**

Chairman McElroy called the Public Hearing to order and confirmed the abutters were on the call.

Roger Hamel – Stated the for the record, he is recusing himself from the hearing; Tom acknowledged.

Tom McElroy – Questioned the platform of how the meetings are conducted and whether it is fair to everybody, specifically, the abutters.

Alan French – Agreed and would like to postpone the meeting to August and at the town hall, if possible, in all fairness.

Michael Connolly – Asked if the meeting should continue this meeting or have it as a preliminary Q & A?

Laura MacKenzie – Confirmed that 48 notices were sent out to abutters.

Alan French – Emphasized the difficulty of holding the meeting virtually, at least on the platform that is currently being used.

Jack T- Brought up phase two and phase three for the new subdivision, but for the separate lot, 27-7 and was wondering if both would be postponed?

Lot 27-7 – Lot 27 is tax map 14, block 1 lot 27-7.

Undisclosed speaker – Proposed the idea of setting up a site visit between now and then if this is postponed.

Tom McElroy – Agreed that this would be a good idea

Tricia from Conservation – Conservation is concerned with waivers on buffers. There has already been an issue with phase 1, 27-3. Genuinely concerned with interfering with the buffer on the aquafer so if there is a sight visit, conservation would be extremely interested, as well.

Tom, 2 Ridgewood – Expressed concern that the certified letter for this meeting showed up the previous Friday and there was not sufficient notice. Tom also questioned how all the information such as variances and variance requests and anything else that would be applicable to the given situation with the development would be presented effectively.

Michael Connolly – Asked regarding the document, he was seeing that the permit application was denied as the building lot was not legally accepted by the town of Newton. If they had not been accepted, Michael questioned how there could be variances on anything?

Undisclosed speaker – Clarified that it is running concurrently, and that tomorrow night is when that happens. Since 90 days of meetings have been missed, there was a denial to come to zoning for today and will be in planning tomorrow.

Tom McElroy – Emphasized again the difficulty of utilizing the current virtual platform and everyone being on the same page. A walk through, on site will help in preparation for the August meeting and a preliminary, unfortunately, may not help with progress.

Alan French – Recommended that the meeting be continued into August

Jack Kozek – Seconds that statement

Tom McElroy – Unanimous pass.

Barbara White – If a site walk is to be done, there needs to be notice and there will need to be minutes as well and the public can attend, also. A notice would need to be made, likely on the town website and the post office.

Roger Hamel – Asked if the August meeting would be a preliminary discussion or a public hearing to make decisions

Tom McElroy – Stated that he would think it would be an official, public hearing where decisions will be made.

Roger Hamel – Expressed concerns with the August meeting being an official hearing, but perhaps the site walk will help. But all in all, it may just be too much and should be a preliminary meeting.

Tricia from Conservation – Agreed that it should be preliminary and that there may not be enough notice to make it an official hearing.

Tricia from Conservation – Because of Covid, if postage is sent to me for the re-notice of the hearing, it can be covered with the grants that are being done.

Alan French – Made a motion to close the meeting, motion passed unanimously.

