

Zoning Board of Adjustment
March 20, 2024
Town Hall
7pm

Roll Call: Present board members Chair Dave Edkins, Clerk Tom Murray, Shane O’Keefe and alternate Myra Mansouri. Absent board members Pauline Barnes and Tom Winmill and alternate Don Sellarole.

Call to Order: Mr. Edkins called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. He asked alternate Mansouri to sit in for board member Pauline Barnes. She agreed to his request.

Minutes of February 2024: Mr. O’Keefe made a motion to approve the minutes as written and he wanted it noted that the section titled “Secretary’s Note” should be a separate attachment and not part of the minutes. Ms. Mansouri seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Edkins said the also the middle paragraph in the section about what was happening in the rest of the building should be removed.

Minutes of Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment Joint Meeting of February 2024. These minutes had been approved as written by the Planning Board at its regular March meeting.

Mr. Edkins said that he and Planning Board Chair Jeff Miller have a meeting with a planner at the Southwest Region Planning Commission office on April 2. The planner has been given a copy of the Walpole Zoning Ordinances as well as copies of the documents prepared by zoning board members Pauline Barnes and Tom Winmill and discussed at the joint meeting of the planning board and ZBA in February. Mr. Miller and Mr. Edkins will discuss updating/recodifying the Walpole Zoning Ordinances.

Ms. Mansouri suggested that the zoning board members reorganize the ordinances. Mr. O’Keefe said, “Absolutely not.” He said that no one was allowed to change anything in the document, “not even a comma.” Ms. Mansouri said that there wouldn’t be any changes to the ordinances, it was just reorganizing them. Mr. O’Keefe suggested that when Mr. Edkins met with the planner he should stress that the Zoning Board of Adjustment was recommending professional help with the project. We will have another joint meeting on Tuesday, April 23.

Alternates

With the outcome of a couple of the March elections, the ZBA lost two alternates. One, Carolyn Vose, was elected to the Select Board and the other, Shane O’Keefe, filled a vacant spot on the ZBA board. So the ZBA is now down to two alternates from previously having four alternates. Mr. Edkins offered to write something for The Clarion describing the situation with the goal of hopefully by letting the public know the board’s predicament, there might be a few people interested in becoming alternates. He was going to ask the Select Board if there were any other boards or commissions having a similar situation and, if so, he would include them in the plea for alternates. Since it was already the 20th of the month, it is probably too late for the April issue of The Clarion but could appear in the May issue.

Election of Officers

Mr. Edkins suggested that since three people were missing from tonight's meeting that the board wait until the April meeting to elect officers to the board. Attendees agreed.

Update Previous Business:

Mr Edkins spoke with Sarah Downing, Walpole's Manager of Administration, and she told him that the owner of the house on Watkins Hill that was supposed to be torn down hasn't been able to find anyone to tear the building down. So, it's been decided that the building will be burned down by the Walpole Fire Department in a "control burn." The Fire Department will decide on the date.

Adjournment

Mr. Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the 20th of March at 7:25 pm. Mr. O'Keefe seconded the motion and the motion carried.

These minutes are unapproved and will be reviewed at the ZBA's April 17th meeting for corrections, additions or omissions.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilou Blaine
ZBA Recording Secretary

cc: ZBA, WPB, Town Offices, The Walpolean.
Posted: Inside the Town Offices, on the bulletin board outside the Post Office,
www.walpolenh.us