

Town of Stamford - Planning Commission (SPC)  
Draft Minutes  
October 16, 2017, 2017

Planning Commission Attendees: Stephen Bechtel, Sheila Lawrence (presiding), Dan Potvin, Dave Saldo (on phone), Kurt Gamari

Visitor: Barb Dolle

Call to order 7:04pm

Barb Dolle presented her letter to the Planning Commission dated October 5, 2017 regarding neighbor's chickens infringing on her property. Her concern is that chicken fecal matter could pass on disease to her family members. She is asking Planning Commission to amend By-laws to put in a chicken ordinance.

Kurt G and Dan P questioned what the SPC can do – SPC cannot enforce by-laws directly.

Kurt G mentioned state not interested in enforcing domestic fowl statutes.

Dan P suggested that the Select Board could create an ordinance regarding chickens.

Stephen B referred to VNRC information sheet "Right-to-Farm and Nuisance vs. As of Right Agricultural Zoning" and State statutes 24:4413 and 24:4414.

Dan P said he would bring up ordinance idea to Select board.

Sheila L and Stephen B will contact BCRC for advice.

Dave S reminded SPC that by-laws and ordinances are different. Check with Nancy B and Lori (town clerk) for clarification of ordinance process. Select Board has final decision on ordinances. Dave S suggested referencing the Select Board Handbook. Stephen B reminded Barb D that any of the solutions discussed would be lengthy.

Barb D left.

Dave S suggested there is a ticket system in Town Office to fine people for breaking ordinances. Check with Select Board about enforcement.

Kurt G said the issue of livestock infringing on neighbors' properties is going to be an on-going issue.

Discussion of Planning Commission's role in nominating an Administrative Officer.

Sheila L went over time-line of Planning Commission posting AO position, receiving one application, full SPC not available to review as of September 25, extending application for AO until October 16, Select board appointing temporary AO on October 5, SPC receiving 2 additional application as of October 16 to consider. Dave S asked if Select Board had contacted any member of the Planning Commission before appoint of interim AO – they had not. Dave S indicated he believed Select board had acted in best interests of Town to address permits that needed processing.

Sheila directed all members present to review the three applications for the AO position. The three applicants were David Bugbee, James Stimpson, Debra Burchard. David Bugbee and James Stimpson resumes had been read previously, Debra Burchard application had been received earlier on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

SPC discussed considerations for the position of AO were enforcement of Zoning By-laws in an impartial yet firm manner. AO needs to be able to conduct themselves in a professional manner and to follow the letter of the by-laws literally.

Upon a voice vote of all members, the Planning Commission unanimously selected James Stimpson to be nominated to the Select board for the position of Administrative Officer based on his experience as a police officer and his expressed interest in serving the Town of Stamford.

Stephen B to type letter to Select board to pass on this recommendation (see attached).

Sheila L to call James Stimpson and inform him of the decision and invite him to the Select Board meeting on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Dan P, Kurt G, Stephen B, and Sheila L also to attend Select board to address any questions.

Dan P indicated he would support the nomination of James Stimpson to the Select board.

Review of minutes of September 25, 2017. Sheila L motion to accept, Dan P 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Dan P mentioned the November 4 Potluck for Veterans to be held in the school. Planning Commission members expressed their appreciation to Dan P for organizing this event.

Next meeting to be Monday November 13, 2017, 7pm.

Motion to adjourn Dan P, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kurt G. All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned 8:23pm

Submitted by Stephen Bechtel