TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

ZONING BOARD

Tuesday July 14, 2020

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

Minutes

6:00 pm

**Present**: Andrea Bryant Chair, Patrick Doughty Vice Chair, Shane MacElhiney, Ruth Heintz, David Vanhouton

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bryant opened the meeting at 6:15 pm. She then read the Agenda.

Agenda item:

Minutes 1-14-2020

Patrick Doughty motion to approve minutes from 1-14-20. Shane MacElhiney second. All in favor 3-2 motion passed. 2 abstained

Minutes 4-14-2020

Shane MacElhiney motion to accept minutes from 4-14-2020. Patrick Doughty second. All in favor 5-0

Motion passed

The board discussed having a hybrid meeting. This would include in person and on ZOOM. With all protocols in place.

AGENDA item

Election of officers. The board decided to keep the current officers in place. Andrea Bryant Chair and Patrick Doughty Vice Chair. Election of officers will be looked at again once the board is back in place at the town hall meeting room.

AGENDA item

David Vanhouton researched having a Liaison for the Zoning Board. His findings were that a Liaison can be in place. The restrictions would be that they are not a voting member. They can be asked questions and invited to a meeting just like the public.

AGENDA item

Special exception criteria

The board discussed the criteria for a special exception. Ruth Heintz would like to investigate the new RSA book before she makes any changes or additions to the current 5 criteria.

There was lengthy discussion on what is a special exception and how the criteria will affect the outcome of an application.

Once the ZBA has a final draft for a warrant article, they will present it to the Planning Board for consideration. PB will have two public hearings before submitting it to the Select Board office. The warrant article will go to deliberation and then it will be on the March ballot.

Shane MacElhiney wanted to be sure that there was not going to be any voting on the criteria this evening. He was told no by Chair Bryant. Focus will be on changing the redundancy of the 5 criteria. Most board members agreed. Patrick Doughty believes that it is fine the way it is. Ruth Heinz would like to see what other towns do.

Andrea Bryant and Ruth Heinz will work on the criteria together. Then they can present a draft to Deb Bayley. All members were encouraged to put their thoughts in an email to Deb Bayley. Then she will share with the board.

Shane MacElhiney asked if the application for the SE can be changed. Yes, it can but not the criteria without a town vote.

Next ZBA meeting September 8, 2020

Patrick Doughty motion to adjourn. Andrea Bryant second all in favor 5-0 passed

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Deb Bayley

P/Z Clerk