

Westwood Planning Board
Joint Meeting with the Select Board
Monday, January 11, 2021

Minutes

The Select Board and Planning Board met via Zoom at a joint meeting on Monday January 11 at 5:00 pm. The meeting was filmed live my Westwood Media Center and available for viewing here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6g_iPP-zKNk

Select Board Chair Hickey called the Select Board meeting to order.

Planning Board Chair Atkins called the meeting of the Planning Board to order at 5:00 pm. Planning Board members Chris Pfaff, Debbie Conant, and Rob Gotti were present and introduced themselves.

Select Board Chair Hickey explained that in December there was a resignation from William (Bill) Delay on the planning Board. The open position was posted and the Town received six application request but two have since withdrawn. The position will be appointed tonight with this joint meeting until the election on April 27, 2021 to fill the remaining of the vacated term, which is until May 2022). Mr. Hickey explained that there are four applicants here tonight and he will ask three questions of each applicant, then both boards will vote by roll call until four votes are secured to appoint a fifth member of the Planning Board. He thanked everyone for applying and interviewing everyone this evening.

The Board interviewed the candidates: Mr. Eric Alden, Mr. Phil Giordano, Ms. Wynne, and Mr. McCusker asking each candidate the same questions. At the conclusion of the interviews, Chair Hickey asked for nominations.

Select Board member Ms. Hyde made a motion to nominate Mr. McCusker, the motion was seconded by Planning Board member Mr. Pfaff.

Select Board member Mr. Walsh made a motion to nominate Ms. Wynne, the motion was seconded by Planning Board Chair Mr. Atkins.

Planning Board member Ms. Conant made a motion to nominate Mr. Giordano.

On a motion made by Select Board member Ms. Hyde, seconded by Select Board Mr. Walsh, there was a roll call vote to close the nominations.

Chair Hickey asked for any further discussion on the two candidates that received nominations.

Mr. Pfaff expressed support for Mr. McCusker explaining that it is important to fill this position for the next four months and there is a need for the position to be filled right away as we are moving into the zoning bylaw town meeting season. He noted that all candidates were talented but supported a past Planning Board member due to the nature of the position.

Mr. Gotti added that they received high quality applicants and wishes we had more opportunity to review candidates to make this decision other than this one meeting. This is a tough decision but hopes to see all candidates again in the future.

Mr. Atkins thanked all four candidates that interviewed noting that he believes they would all be a good fit as members of the Planning Board.

There was a roll call vote as follows:

Nancy Hyde – Mike McCusker

Mike Walsh – Kate Wynne

Dave Atkins – Kate Wynne

Debbie Conant – Neither candidate

Rob Gotti – Mike McCusker

Chris Pfaff – Mike McCusker

John Hickey – Mike McCusker

On a motion made by Select Board member Ms. Hyde, seconded by Mr. Walsh, on a roll call vote 6-1-0 (Ms. Conant voted against) the Select Board and Planning Board voted to appoint Mike McCusker to the Planning Board until the conclusion of May 2021 Annual Town Meeting.