

AMENDED COPY

Town of Jefferson
Office of the Planning Board

Minutes

February 23, 2021

Members present: Chairman Gil Finch, Jason Call, Michael Meehan, Donna Laurent, Gordon Rebello, Kevin Meehan, Selectmen's representative

Absent: Wayne Kellner, alternate; Bob Roy, alternate

Others present: Charlene Wheeler, Board secretary

The meeting was held virtually. Thanks again to Donna Laurent for setting up the meeting for the Board.

Minutes

Donna Laurent made the motion to approve as read the February 9, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Michael Meehan. The vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

Communications

Copies of Selectmen's minutes can be read on the town's website and any questions brought to the next Planning Board meeting

Unfinished Business

Board members were updated on cleanup, recovery, and replacement of items after the town hall was destroyed. It looks like the town's new office location at the former Jefferson elementary school is on track to open next week. The Board secretary reported the replacement Floodplain Maps which were destroyed have arrived. Also, North Country Council has supplied Planning and Zoning Handbooks, one with a CD, free of charge. Ink stamps and ink pad needed for plats have been ordered. Other reference books will eventually be replaced as well. Selectman Kevin Meehan updated Board members on all the progress being made in getting the office up and running at the school as well as cleanup at the town hall site and plans for the future. Recovery of records is also being organized. Written ballot voting on warrant articles will take place on the regular March 9 town meeting date at the school. Election officers have been working to make sure all will be ready with proper COVID safety protocol. The rest of town meeting will be held later in the spring. Absentee ballots have just arrived but town report booklets aren't completed as yet. Kevin Meehan was asked if the school had a new official name although it has been referred recently as the Jefferson Community Center. Kevin said the name wasn't official as yet. It was suggested a survey of the town's citizens be done to ask for their suggestions as to what the name should be now that it will be in use on a regular basis.

Jason Call reported he has had conversations with some of the town's voters who seemed surprised at the proposed changes to the Land Use Ordinance which will be on the warrant. He said he discussed the history behind the changes with them and answered their questions but he was concerned that others will think these changes were done in some secret way. But every issue that has been discussed has come at the request of the Select Board and Fire Department and done over a long period of time at public meetings where minutes have been kept and filed for public viewing. The process has followed state guidelines and with the assistance of the town's attorney for advice. The final hearings on the proposed changes were well publicized in the newspaper, on the town's website, and around town. It was suggested that because of the

COVID pandemic people's attentions were elsewhere and perhaps thought other work being done by town boards had ceased as well. When in truth everyone had to work harder to do their best to make things work as normally as possible. The Board secretary will try to have information put on the Jefferson Facebook page letting people know where they can go or who to call to get the correct information or questions answered before March 9. Information will be available at the school during voting and hopefully people will ask questions if they don't understand.

Because of the voting and some of the Planning Board members helping into the evening hours on March 9, Jason Call made the motion to cancel the Board's regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Meehan. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous. The Board secretary will contact June about the date of the Board's next planned meeting on March 23 to work on the Master Plan again. Also election of officers will be taking place as well.

Michael Meehan made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jason Call. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Charlene Wheeler
Secretary to the Board