

Planning Board – Regular Meeting

Longmeadow Adult Center, Multipurpose Room – 211 Maple Road, Longmeadow MA 01106

Wednesday July 6th, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Cheryl Thibodeau, Bruce Colton, Chris Legiadre.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Assist. TM Corrin Meise-Munns, Erik Merliss from Arnco, Dr. Dave Marinelli.

The *Planning Board In-person Regular Meeting* was called to order at 7:03pm by Chair Donald Holland.

Sign Application, M&T Bank, 670 Bliss Rd. – Case #20220706:

Mr. Merliss presented the following details of the application:

1. A sign that is to be installed in the existing location of the “People’s United Bank” sign, which has an area of 16 sq. ft. The sign consists of a white aluminum background internally illuminated with LED lighting that will display the new bank’s name in clear push-thru acrylic, teal-colored letters.
2. A temporary, digitally-printed graphic sign cover will be installed to conceal the new M&T Bank and will be removed on the day the new corporate identity goes into effect.
3. Two existing directional signs at the drive-thru area will be replaced with new 1.25 sq. ft white aluminum panel signs displaying the words “Clearance 7’-3” and Exit Only in teal letters.

It was noted that temporary signs are not within the purview of the Planning Board, therefore such item is to be reviewed by the Building Commissioner.

Bruce Colton made motion, and was seconded by Walter Gunn, to approve the sign application for M&T Bank branch #8413 to be located at 670 Bliss Rd, case #20220706, as presented with the condition that the temporary sign be reviewed by the Building Commissioner. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.

Documents presented: Sign application, dated 06/16/2022

Discussion and Action: Planning Board Letter To MEPA, Bruce Colton:

Member Bruce Colton has proposed a letter to MEPA and circulated a draft of such document detailing the concerns the board has with the pipeline project and the board’s lack of communications with Tennessee Gas Pipeline on the matter. Assist. TM Meise-Munns has indicated that the Select Board is in the midst of drafting a similar document with their comments and concerns, with both boards seemingly on the same terms. The board expressed concern over Eversource’s recent filing of a petition for relief of the town’s zoning bylaw requirements.

Walter Gunn made a motion, and was seconded by Cheryl Thibodeau, to endorse the letter addressed to MEPA as prepared and presented by Bruce Colton. All in favor, 5-0.

Meeting Minutes Review:

1. Special Meeting June 21st, 2022: Walter Gunn made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Thibodeau, to accept the minutes as presented. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.

Planning Board Comments:

1. Mr. Steve Marantz and his wife Michelle will move out of town in the coming weeks New leadership will be in place on July 18 at the Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group and a special town election is expected to be held to fill in Mr. Marantz’ vacancy at the Select Board.

Assist. TM / Director of Community Development Comments:

1. None.

Planning Board Reorganization:

Walter Gunn made a motion, and was seconded by Don Holland, to nominate Cheryl Thibodeau as Chair for the upcoming fiscal year. All in favor, 4-0 with one abstention (Cheryl Thibodeau). Additionally, Don Holland made a motion, and was seconded by Chris Legiadre, to nominate Walter Gunn as Clerk for the upcoming fiscal year. All in favor 4-0 with one abstention (Walter Gunn).

Visitor Comments:

Dr. Marinelli praised the boards and town staff have been involved in the arduous task of reformatting the bylaws into the eCode format. He also added that there appears to be disagreement on whether Eversource has made a successful civil case that justifies the project and its route. Many town residents do wish to find energy alternatives away from fossil fuels but acknowledge that new technologies for environmentally-conscious heating during the winter months has not been successfully developed.

Walter Gunn made a motion, and was seconded by Cheryl Thibodeau, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor 5-0, motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano

DRAFT