

Calais Development Review Board Hearing Continuation
Minutes Thursday, June 17, 2021, 7 PM (via Zoom video call)

Present: Art Edelstein (Member), Stephanie Kaplan (Member), Jan Ohlsson (Alternate), Margaret "Peg" Bowen (Chair), Dot Helling (Member), Peter Harvey, Ryan Edwards (Member), Lucy Wollaeger, Ruth Porter (Member), Anne Winchester (Member), Denise Wheeler (Alternate), Bob Martin (Zoning Administrator), Katie Lane-Karnas (recording minutes)

Initial Remarks: Stephanie Kaplan explained that the Governor's end of the COVID-19 restrictions causes the end to the allowance for remote meetings and reverts back to the requirements for open meeting law, which requires a physical place to meet in person (at least one person located at that place). Jan Ohlsson pointed out this meeting has been planned and warned, and therefore needs to proceed as planned. Stephanie Kaplan said that would make sense, but asked the group to decide if they want to proceed knowing the open meeting law is operating now. The nomination of Chair must be done at a public meeting and voted on.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:07 PM.

Continuation of Hearing for Application # 2021-13 Harvev-Wollenger at 1155 Old West Church Road request to move a 12 x 19' shed in the Design Control District: Ruth Porter, Dot Helling, and Peg Bowen met at the site at 8:00 on June 1, therefore, this is a continuation of the hearing. There are no further comments and the Chair believes we should approve the application and finish writing up the order and send to everyone to sign. The decision was voted and passed 5-0 (Stephanie Kaplan and Jan Ohlsson abstained). Dot Helling commented that while she wasn't at the original hearing, she voted in support after having reviewed everything. Peter Harvey asked for confirmation that there is no waiting period after today's meeting for his application to be fully approved; the group confirmed there is no waiting period.

Denise Wheeler commented that she is trying to call an emergency Selectboard meeting about opening the Town Hall (following the Governor's order); she questioned moving forward with this meeting without open meeting law requirements being met (with a physical location available). As Stephanie Kaplan questioned earlier, she considered whether there would be a potential problem with this meeting not having fulfilled open meeting law. The group considered that one person only must be available in a location that the public could come and participate; an emergency meeting with 24 hours' notice could allow one person to sit at the rec center while the meeting is held by Zoom call. The group considered how to proceed in light of this sudden change. Denise Wheeler reiterated that this is probably not a legal meeting. The 7 pm hearing was warned as usual but the 7:30 pm portion of the meeting was not warned.

Denise is working as fast as time allows to communicate with Selectboard members about holding an emergency meeting to open the Town Hall. To properly hold a special meeting for DRB election of officers and rules of procedures, the group planned to warn a meeting for as soon as possible.

Stephanie Kaplan made a motion to warn a special meeting to elect officers and adopt rules of procedure and to ratify Peter Harvey's application approval for as soon as possible but no later than next Thursday. (Dot will be unavailable Tuesday-Saturday; participation is permissible by phone or comments can be shared by email.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.
Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas, 6/17/2021

DRAFT