

January 2022 Albion Planning Board Minutes
January 10, 2022

Members Present: K. Morrissey, Chair, A. Corson, B. McPherson, J. Atwood, B. Gatti

Members Absent: M. Dow, B. Clark

CEO: Present

Others Attending; 12 Members of the Community

The meeting was divided in three parts: Two Public Hearings for Proposals to be submitted to the Select Board for inclusion as warrants at the annual Town Meeting and the regular monthly Planning Board meeting.

Kevin convened the first Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the matter of the proposed draft of the Marijuana Establishments Licensing Ordinance. He then requested comments from those in attendance. Hearing none Kevin noted the purpose of the ordinance and read aloud several key elements therein. Thereafter discussions ensued regarding several concerns about the proposed decision to “opt in” to adopt a specific ordinance for Albion.

Included in the opinions expressed were the potential for a rise in crime and traffic accidents, odor and lack of both human and financial resources to enforce the ordinance. The suggestion that the motivation for instituting the ordinance only for financial gain by the town was raised. Bill assured the attendees that given our history of requiring minimal permitting fees, this was not the Boards’ intention.

There being no further discussion Kevin adjourned the hearing at 7:58 p.m.

Immediately thereafter Kevin commenced the hearing discussion concerning the proposed one year moratorium on the development of large scale commercial solar arrays. Bill noted the rise of numerous commercial arrays throughout the county and state and the numerous town moratoriums currently in place were reasons enough to take this initiative to create an ordinance consistent with the needs of the town now and in the future. A discussion followed noting several concerns including providing secure financial resource to fund the removal of arrays in the future, appropriate locations and removal of viable farm or forest land from our landscape. There being no further comments Kevin adjourned the hearing at 8:20 p.m.

Kevin then convened the regular meeting appointing Jana Atwood as a voting member.

Approval of December Minutes. Allysa made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Allysa made a motion, then modified, to change the proposed Marijuana Ordinance warrant as follows: In Article IV, Section 1. “ The maximum number of local licenses allowed at one time for Medical Marijuana Caregiver Retail Stores shall be **two (2) and only within the growth or rural areas.**”

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ben made a motion to submit the warrant for the Moratorium for Commercial Solar arrays as written. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m

Bill Gatti
Planning Board Secretary