

# Sandisfield Planning Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, October 11, 2022  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Road

1. Melchior/Riiska 101 New Hartford Form A. Paul G asked how the board can ensure that it combined into one lot because if someone did not pay taxes on the lot and the Town seized it for back taxes the Town would be stuck with a landlocked lot. M. Parsons stated that is why he indicated on the drawing that it is to be conveyed. Mike P. explained the whole process that the owners must complete to combine these lots into one. After conveyed can combine into one lot but can't be until we approve the Form A. Paul A moves, Bill seconds, Paul G voted as long as it is combined into one lot, the rest of the board voted to approve.
2. Grumbach-BNRC Form A. Dodd/Sage Road at York Lake Road. Divide lot into 2 for estate planning reasons. Paul G moves, Bill seconds, unanimous.
3. Discuss hiring new secretary. Have 1 application from Gina Colelli. Psychotherapist, has some administrative experience. Open meeting law: does it say anything about what needs to be in minutes. Barb etc. reply it is pretty loose what goes in. Bill says he knows all decisions, motions and seconds need to be recorded. He likes to include some of the discussion so we can look back at the record if there are future questions. Barb will call BRPC and see if they have a template. Lisa moved Paul A seconded, unanimous to hire Gina Colelli.
4. Results of first community outreach meeting: Alex: As a PB know more about what we can and can't do. Have had not very active PB and do not know what PB does. Evident with item 5. We need to introduce each topic and say here's issue, pros and cons, not just open. He thinks we need to fulfill master plan. Barb and others on PB agree we need to give the facts about each issue (what existing bylaws say about it if anything) at future community meetings.
5. Discuss email from Robert Samson: Barb found disturbing. Some things not factual. Robert's email says "I am going to have email installed real soon". John Silbert actually did it. Robert says: John tasked him to do it. Spectrum will install Oct 18. Robert: he has installed into hospitals etc. Charter person filled out forms wrong. On cabin he stays in when in town, has complaints. Wants names of people that harassed him. Living in PA. Spends time up here. Barb and Paul G: he needs to do what is legal to reduce the complaints. Robert: Town removed trailer because of complaints. Paul G and Barb: can show progress on house then extend 1 year trailer. Michael Fosco (leader of Veterans outdoors): sounds like caught up in removal of other campers. Barb: Could start the clock on trailer now. Robert: Could use some time. Concerned about how other campers dealt with (removal). 50 acre min for cannabis; discussed. Robert's email also brought up idea to tax other things to help us go green like 3<sup>rd</sup> garage bay, trucks, etc. Barb: that needs to happen at state level and town can't levy such taxes locally. Bill and Paul A explain tax on ST rentals, how the state passed a local tax option so towns can tax ST rentals at up to 6%.
6. Short term rental discussion: deferred to next meeting
7. Discussion on master plan. Paul A: list of steps and status of them. Paul A will try to get a spreadsheet and say what we did and didn't. Call David Hubbard. We will all read Master Plan. Next PB Mtg rescheduled to Nov 1 due to Nov 8 election and Nov 15 Conservation Commission meets here.

8. Dark Sky education material review (Bill, Barb): Alex: Has concern about the idea of talking to neighbors. Once done wrong will be extra expense to fix it. Bylaw would help people save money by guiding them to do it right from the start. Westfield has a very simple one page bylaw. Bill: For some reason New Marlborough passed a 6 page bylaw while Sandisfield couldn't even get anything out of the Planning Board. Perhaps different people were in key positions in each town because we are both rural towns that are not too different. Also the dark sky issue was not on people's mind as much as other issues. Paul A: room for a simple bylaw. People imagined a bylaw was too complex. Priority was roads etc. Paul: the paper Bill passed out is too vague. Working off the bylaw language and lighting chart gives people useful information. Bill: this is a cover letter that refers to the Dark Sky Association brochure and any other information included in the welcome packet. We could also add other brochures that go into more detail on wildlife, health, animals. Sent electronic copies to PB members, forgot to print out for this meeting. Lisa: informational packet: Keep in mind. Put info packet out. Barb moves that we put out a packet and stop discussion at PB meetings now. Barb moves, Paul G seconds. Unanimous. Gina: BRPC (not sure what this comment was). Bill and Paul A want this to also be in Permit Eyes as some people remodel and only use it. Barb and others say many have trouble using Permit Eyes.
9. Community outreach meeting Oct. 21. We will give facts on each issue as Alex mentioned.
10. Fossil Fuel education material in welcome packet (Bill). Bill passed out a brief start at this as a cover letter/introduction to Dark Sky and Energy etc. Will work with Barbara on details of what goes into packet. When asked when she would work on it she said after the next Community Meeting and done by the first of the year
11. Review all August meetings' minutes. Both Sept 13 meeting and Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Meeting minutes were approved. Barb asked Bill to give a copy of the Sept 23 and 26 minutes to Janey Beardsley to pass on to Select Board.
12. Open mail, any bills. Otis having a meeting at same time as this. Invoice from Berkshire Eagle for \$802 was for additional ad required for the Cannabis Bylaw. Bill will give invoice to Gina (Treasurer) and discard Otis notice.
13. Topics not anticipated by the chair within 48 hours of meeting. Paul A asks if Ryback applied for building permit. Concom put cease and desist because too near wetland. Didn't understand, explained and on concom next week. Moved driveway. Paul A: wattles moved, redrawing lines acc to Paul A.
14. future agenda items. Alex: States clarification on cannabis bylaw removes Impact Fee that is not backed by receipts or proof of impact. Bill and others: this changes and removes benefit to town. Alex: Need to look at the pros and cons of having cannabis without money for town. Wants on agenda. Barb: Will put on unspecified future agenda.
15. Adjourn meeting. Paul moves, Lisa seconds, unanimous. 8:16 PM