

Sandisfield Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:00PM, 3 Silverbrook Rd

1. Open meeting: At 6:08 called to order. Present: Roger Kohler, John Field, Bill Taylor in person, Paul Gaudette via zoom, Ron Pachulski, Carl Nett, and Douglas Miner in person.
2. Minutes edited by expanding Paul's comment about no one coming forward to grow, so thinks since the restrictions would not have affected anyone in the past, it is unlikely to be a future problem. We will therefore vote to approve the to-be-revised January 11 minutes at the March meeting.
3. Dark Sky: Most comments were that it is too complicated to pass, and people don't want to be told what to do (John, Paul). Too complicated according to Carl and too much math according to Douglas Miner. Simplify. John: I have the non-compliant lights on my property (while looking at the 1-page examples of compliant and noncompliant lighting). Roger: Shielding makes sense. Bill: Education also important and is included in the draft bylaw. Carl: Light should not be intrusive. A simple statement about that would be better than a 2-3 page bylaw of regulations. Or work it out person by person. Ron: too complicated, borrowing trouble we may not experience. The sense is that this is not really a problem now. Bill's point via George Riley is that with high-speed internet there will be more development. Carl: Could simplify to a statement that lighting that is offensive and intrusive to neighbors is prohibited. John: Lights pointing down driveways or on transfer station building pointing at road are annoying/blinding. Paul: education easier than bylaw. Some people find offensive what others don't mind. Difficult to find the right language. Bill: that is why the footcandles, other technical information. A low color temperature (warmer colored light) is important in reducing glare, penetrating fog, less scattering into the sky. Bulbs have the K numbers on them so it is easy for people to comply. Roger: shielded use, pointed downward. Paul: As an analogy, stream crossing standards were mostly followed as best practices. Later went into Wetlands Protection Act. We could start with standards. Handout with building package. Commercial: Select Board can regulate that via the Special Permit process. We should make a recommendation that Dark Sky info be included in building permit package. Bill adds: and upload to permit eyes. Roger: Maybe pass item A to require shielded lights, something very simple, then he backed off to just education. Decided not to have a bylaw for Dark Skies. John: I learned a lot, have changed how I will do lighting on my new building. An example of the power of education. Bill summarized the consensus in a recommendation:

In Lieu of a bylaw, the Planning Board recommends that Dark Sky Lighting information be provided to people applying for building permits and special permits either through a brochure in the permit package, through a hyperlink for applicants using the permit eyes program, or in the case of Special Permits as a brochure provided to the applicant by the Select Board.

Bill moves, Paul seconds, unanimous.

4. Unanticipated items: Ron wants to be secretary and/or to be on the Planning Board. When he asked it was forgotten that Bill is now secretary. Bill said he is happy to share the job. Ron was told to go through the Select Board.

Carl: saw the Berkshire Eagle Cannabis bylaw ads. Bill got the Tear Sheet today for March 9 hearing on Shared Driveway, ADU and Dark Sky Bylaws.

5. Adjourned at 7:49. Paul moved "I think we should close this baby down". Roger seconded,. Unanimous