

ZONING COMMISSION
NOANK FIRE DISTRICT 1
10 WARD AVENUE
NOANK, CT 06340

Approved Minutes of the Special Meeting

Date: Monday, June 28, 2021

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Commission Members present: Rick Smith (Chair), Beth Steele (Vice-Chair), Blake Powell, Art Tanner, and Dana Oviatt. Alternate Larry Dunn was present, as were newly-elected alternates Hansina Wright and Mary Ellen Furlong (effective 7/1/21).

The purpose of the special meeting was to consider the implications of the Commission's June 15th vote to conclude the involvement of alternates in discussions and deliberations on the Short Term Rental issue.

Chairman Smith called for a motion to rescind the previous action.

Action: Motion (Oviatt/Smith). No discussion was offered. **Motion failed** 2:3.

Chairman Smith suggested that a brief discussion of the rationale of commissioners was warranted, for the record. He noted that the issue was that the five elected alternates, among all Noankers, would be prevented from speaking on the subject in the future, as members of the public or members of the commission, unless they resigned their position as an alternate. He suggested that the remedy would have been to allow all five the same rights as had been extended to the two for the past two years, that is, to participate in discussions and debate but not to vote (unless seated for an absent commissioner).

Commissioner Tanner noted the concern seemed to be that elected alternates would be deprived of the opportunity to speak going forward but, in reality, Alternates Dunn and Marshall had had an unusually great opportunity to contribute during the two years of development just concluded and the new three alternates were not as well-informed about the debates that occurred since 2019 so they would likely be of less value in making changes to the current proposal.

Commissioner Oviatt asked Mr. Tanner to expound on his concerns, which he did. Chief were that that the two experienced commissioners had had plenty of opportunity to influence the outcome of the proposals over the past two years but progress in the future might be delayed if commissioners had to explain to new alternates how the commission had gotten to the point it was at.

Commissioners Powell and Steele noted that the commission would have gotten to this point anyway, if not now then after the formal public hearing, likely to be in the fall. They felt that the five commissioners needed to get on with the decision-making and it was best that they be the ones to deal with that activity.

Action: Motion (Tanner/Powell) – Motion to adjourn. **Approved** 5:0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
Recorded by: Rick Smith, Chairman