

DRAFT

WESTMORELAND PLANNING BOARD

Meeting of February 12, 2018

Call to Order, Seating Members

Present: Bruce Smith, Tim Thompson, Jim Starkey, Steve Houle, Alison Fissette- Alt, Elaine Moore-Alt, Clayton Stalker-Selectmen's Rep.

Absent: Lauren Bressett, Mark Hayward

Guest: David Worth

Acting Chair Bruce Smith called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Review of Minutes:

Jim Starkey moved to accept the minutes as read, Steve Houle seconded, all voted in favor.

Applications/Hearings:

None

Old Business:

Solar Ordinance – Mr. Worth was present to discuss the proposed ordinance the Board the town will be voting on at Town Meeting in March. He stated he has called the Town Attorney and was told the ordinance is not illegal.

Mr. Worth has five concerns that he believes should be addressed.

1. Permits – roof and ground or just ground
2. Area – outbuildings vs. dwelling vs limited KW (10KW)
3. Screening – from what point or cone approach front to back, etc
4. Multi use buildings – carport, animal protection shed, electric car stations, etc.
5. Ground coverage – water penetration.

Mr. Worth stated water penetration should not be deleted from the ordinance.

There was discussion on all five concerns

Asked if the a permit was needed for a solar panels to be erected/placed on roofs, Mr. Worth stated someone only needs to contact the Zoning Administrator to inform him of the placement. There is no inspection by the Town Building Inspector. Mr. Worth believes the placement of solar panels should be inspected for proper installation by the building inspector and a licensed electrician. Both would then sign of on the installation.

After a lengthy discuss on the all the above the Board thanked Mr. Worth for his coming in with his concerns and informed him they would be reviewed. Mr. Worth was questions why if he had these concerns he did not come forward at the Public Hearing last month. He stated he had been in about six months ago and spoke to the Board about Solar Panels. The Board explained it

would have been beneficial if he had been at the Public Hearing. The Board thanked Mr. Worth for attending and explaining his concerns. Mr. Worth left the meeting around 7:45 pm.

With discussion by the Board Acting Chair Bruce Smith asked the Board how they feel about what was discussed with Mr. Worth and if they believe there may be potential problems. Steve Houle suggested to pulling the Ordinance from the Ballot if it is legal to do so. A vote was taken. Majority agreed on removing the Ordinance section of Solar from the ballot. After further discussion Jim Starkey made a motion that the Board removed the Photovoltaic Systems Ordinance from the Town Ballot for further work, provided it is legal to do so. Clayton Stalker seconded the motion. Majority in favor, so voted.

Elaine will contact Lauren Bressett and inform her of tonights actions and ask that she contact the Town Attorney regarding the Boards decision

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. Seconded by Jim Starkey. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Moore - Clerk