

Mechanic Falls Town Council/Planning Board

September 23, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Fifield, Chair
Wayne Hackett, Vice Chair
Kieth Bennett

Nicholas Konstantoulakis
John Emery

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS:

Lou Goulet-Chair
Paula Stotts
Jeremy Klar
Forrest Martin-Absent

Walter Goss-Vice Chair
Lou Annance
Paula Bolduc

STAFF PRESENT:

Julie Ward-Town Clerk
Zachary Maher- Town Manager
Jack Conway- Town Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eriks Petersons-Sun Journal
Jimmy Vadeboncoeur
Nancy Lausier
Catherine Pressey
Tom Webster
Rena Berry
Milton Walker

Martha Yates
Peter Ford Sr
Lori Vadeboncoeur
Laurie Crane-Turton
Adam Lee-Attorney
Walter Berry
Sandra Ballard

Mike Kyllonen
Deb Kyllonen
Valerie Emery
Pam Grondin

1.0 Councilor Fifield called the meeting to order at 7pm.

2.0 We stood and saluted the flag.

3.0 Roll Call complete

4.0 General Reports: None

5.0 Public Hearings: None

6.0 Comments from the Public:

Catherine Pressey of Bucknam Street talking about the junkyard and fence on 153 North Main Street and the box truck that was permitted as a shed is the public way, set backs in the town don't seem to be enforced. She is tired of looking the mess everyday and hopes there will be an investigation.

Jimmy Vadeboncoeur of High Street was stating the fact that no one but Council Chair should be addressing the public, and the council needs to determine the next step. He also wanted to state rules of executive session that he found in Rules of Order 3.5 and State of Maine Rules 405 sections 2&4 that cover executive sessions.

Eriks Petersons of the Sun Journal wanted to know how many complaints are being reviewed, it looked like approximately 12 with duplicates involved.

7.0 Old Business:

7.1 Discussion of Possible Investigation & Ordinance

Councilor Fifield asked if the council had an opportunity to go through the complaints and asked if they felt the need for an investigation. Councilor Hackett thought they were going to have a workshop with the planning board to discuss the complaints but will do what is needed.

Lou Goulet wanted to point out that Code Enforcement office was unable to make it the meeting due to vehicle issues but said to move forward with out him. Town Attorney Jack Conway said that in order to have an executive session that anyone that is relevant to that has to be present, which includes the complainant and the person the complaint is against. There was not written notice that a person involved waived their right to not attended, and recommended to the council should proceed with caution regarding executive session.

Lou Goulet asked if the Planning board could look into the complaints and Lou Annance asked if so, can the Planning Board invite some one in to guide them with code laws.

Paula Stotts asked the Town Attorney what kind of complaints should be looked at, paper or email? The Council need to determine what are valid complaints and by looking through the packet Paula Bolduc said she say (7) seven.

Councilor Bennett feels they should investigate every complaint due to the turmoil the Town has been in this summer to see if they are legit, Councilor Emery agreed. Councilors discussed possibly getting a third party to come in that was un-biased and Councilor Fifield questioned if there were fees involved. Town Attorney suggested looking for someone that has knowledge of codes and planning, possibly contacting MMA, or AVCOG would be a great place to look into, they offer a lot of different services that the Town already pays for. Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to hire a third party to investigate the Code Office, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

Resident Laurie Crane Turton want to know why this process is taking so long, Councilor Fifield explained that the only time they can have any type of discussion is at meetings, and because this is new territory for the council it does take time to sit and talk in front of the public. Whose responsibility will it be to contact or hire a 3rd party.

Councilor Bennett questioned if they would have to be involved with the planning board during the process. The Council is not normally involved in their meetings.

Councilor Emery motioned to find a third party weather we hire someone or get someone who has expertise and once we decide we assign the planning board to compile a list of findings and feel confident the planning board sends it back to the Council to make a determination on it, Councilor Bennett seconded, all in favor so voted.

8.0 New Business: None

9.0 Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses: None

10.0 Executive Session: Cancelled

11.0 Adjourn:

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Emery. All in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned 7:55pm

Next Meeting October 7,2019 6:30pm (Council Room)