

Minutes

Board of Assessors

Room 105

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5:00 PM

The meeting convened at 5:02 PM in Room 105. Present were: Board members: Mary Greendale, chair, Jeffrey Marshall (via ZOOM) and Stephen Wang. Staff: Kevin Rudden and Sherrie Bates.

1. Since the meeting was conducted via ZOOM web conference, Kevin Rudden read the required statement about “remote meetings.” A roll call vote was taken for attendance. All board members were present.
2. Stephen Wang made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey Marshall, to approve the meeting minutes for the October 4, 2022 meeting. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 3-0-0.
3. Board members reviewed the 22 Chapter 61 renewal applications submitted. Kevin Rudden said one application (#2) was incomplete and requested the board delay approving it. Mary Greendale requested that the owners of Highland Farm (#14) be invited in to a meeting to discuss whether they were still in operation. Stephen Wang made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey Marshall, to approve the other 20 renewal applications. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 3-0-0.
4. Mary Greendale made a motion at 5:20 PM, seconded by Stephen Wang, to enter into an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, with the intent to return to public session. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 3-0-0.
5. The board returned to public session at 5:30 PM. Stephen Wang made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey Marshall, to ratify the action taken during Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 3-0-0.

6. Kevin Rudden told board members that voters at the October 17, 2022 Special Town Meeting passed the board's article authorizing the Board of Assessors and the Select Board to negotiate Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements with the respective developers of a proposed solar energy project on Bartzak Drive and a proposed battery storage project on Central Street.
7. Kevin Rudden told board members he already was working on developing a Fiscal Year 2024 department budget and would be ready to discuss it with them in December, once the FY 23 tax rate was approved.
8. Board members reviewed FY 23 preliminary valuation calculations. Mary Greendale and Jeffrey Marshall requested a breakdown by neighborhood. There also was a discussion regarding looking at how the neighborhoods were delineated, with the goal of coming up with more understandable neighborhood boundaries. Kevin Rudden said the annual Classification Hearing is scheduled for November 14, 2022.

Jeffrey Marshall made a motion, seconded by Stephen Wang, to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 3-0-0.