

ITA Update
February 11, 2019

Committees and Boards

The Planning Board is requesting legal information from Town Counsel as to the proper method to adopt procedures, rules and fee schedules for the Planning Board, and may have an article for Town Meeting if action there is necessary. They are also in communication with Varsity Wireless, a wireless tower provider to the wireless carrier industry, and have asked Town Counsel for advice on Varsity's status as a provider rather than a carrier, which is what the Town's by-law is based on, and also whether the Planning Board, as the Special Permit Granting Authority, can waive requirements in the by-law (Varsity is requesting a 150-ft. tower, higher than the 120 feet allowed).

The Conservation Commission moved a bit early to appoint two members, as one member who has not been attending is still technically a member until June 30. Bob Armstrong is working with that member to determine the best way to proceed.

Departments

Town Counsel reports that the amendment covers ⁵ bed and breakfast establishments as well as short term Airbnb's. DOR advises that the rate (as well as the initial acceptance) must be set and accepted by town meeting; the Selectboard cannot unilaterally set the rate. They also confirmed that it would not be proper to set a different rate for a bed and breakfast than that accepted for a short-term rental (e.g., Airbnb). The question before the Select Board will be to decide whether to move forward in proposing a rate, and if so, what rate.

Colonial Power, the Town's aggregator, reports that Wednesday's public hearing went well; there were no issues or concerns. Their attorney has filed the Town's Return of Service (including proof that they posted and published the public hearing notice). The next step should be for the DPU to issue discovery, or follow-up questions on the Town's plan. Colonial will prepare the answers for those and coordinate responses to the DPU. Then we wait for an official Order; their last 8 DPU Orders took over 6 months from filing to issuance, so that would put us at the end of May. Colonial Power will keep us posted with any developments.

I have received inquiries regarding both a community outreach meeting and a medical marijuana operation. The community outreach meeting, requested by John Moore, is scheduled for Friday, February 22, at the Town Hall.

Since I have not received word from any committee that the Town should exercise its right of first refusal for John Harris' land, I'll put that on the next agenda for a decision.

The one budget item that has changed is the FRCOG line, which will be \$51,992 rather than my estimated \$52,692, or \$700 less. This does not include the BOH's \$8,694 for the Town Nurse.