

Residential Study Group (RSG)
September 11, 2017
6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Arlington Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room
MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees: Steve McKenna, Town Manager appointee; Pasi Miettinen, Town Manager appointee; Wynelle Evans, Town Manager appointee; Jenny Raitt, Planning and Community Development; Jonathan Nyberg, industry rep; Bill Copithorne, industry representative; Rick Vallerelli, Inspectional Services; Town Meeting Member; Janice Weber, Town Meeting Member; Elizabeth Pyle, Town Meeting Member.

Jenny opened the meeting. The group made introductions.

The group had a question about ZBA membership on the group. Jenny will confirm membership with the ZBA. Group also had questions about the timing of Town Meeting. Jenny explained that Town Meeting is called by the Board of Selectmen. There was an open discussion about which topics we might take up in the future. Janice suggested that we address the issue of single-family homes converting to two-family homes in her neighborhood. Andrew suggested that the preservation of trees is an important issue. We can work with the tree Committee to increase landscaping requirement and learn more about the implementation of the new bylaw. It was suggested that we invite Susan Stamps, Tim Levicure, or John Ellis to one of our meetings to learn more about the tree bylaw and ways to potentially make improvements.

The group moved to providing updates from the sub-groups. Liz stated that she has a meeting scheduled on 9/20 at 8:00 to discuss noise abatement and excavation/ rock removal. She requested the Planning and Community Development office provide the research used for the ARB Report to Special Town Meeting 2016. She also requested that we post a message to the massplanners listserv regarding asking about other municipalities experience with these types of rules and zoning. The first question we would ask is whether or not the rule is located in zoning or a town bylaw. Then we would ask about the thresholds for triggering the bylaw or rule (the amount of rock removal). Lastly, Liz would like to understand the exact section of the rules or bylaw where the respective information lives. We should be looking at municipalities with similar topography, e.g. ledge.

Pasi stated that the meetings with his group, who are interested in energy efficiency, will be starting next week.

Jonathan reported that while he could not attend the meeting on accessory dwelling units, he learned a number of issues from the meeting. ADUs might devalue neighborhoods because of the fear that the units might operate as a two-family instead of a single-family. There are constitutional issues around the term “family” which makes the conversation challenging and borderline discriminatory. The group is next meeting on October 5th.

Liz asked for an update on the historic resources inventory project being funded by the Community Preservation Act and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The working group is in the process of reviewing proposals from prospective consultants and should be completed soon. She asked if we could receive an update on that project from the consultant once their work has started.

Lastly, Wynelle and Jenny mentioned the beginning of their work researching design guidelines. They will be meeting again to keep the discussion going.

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