

Eastport Municipal Planning Board

Minutes from Regular Meeting

Wednesday 5 February 2020

Members Present: Michael Morse, Tom Ries, and Hugh French. Rachel Cox and Stephen Collins were excused.

Others Present: Robert Scott, CEO, Ron DeFilippo, J. Arroyo, John Venskus, Todd Rich (Wireless Communications).

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Morse.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Review of Minutes

Motion T. Ries, second H. French to accept the meeting minutes from 14 January 2020. Motion carried.

Old Business

Shoreland Zoning – Robert Scott, Stephen Collins, and Michael Morse met with Dawn Hurd, MDEP Assistant Shoreland Zoning Coordinator. It was decided to make SLZ (Shoreland Zoning) a stand alone ordinance similar to Flood Plain Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance. Dawn will be revising the SLZ and sending it back to us. We have been removing all references to SLZ from Land Use. We will need to hold a public hearing for both changes, Land Use and SLZ, and then ask the Council to vote on it. It is mandated by the State.

New Business

Discussion on “ Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Siting Ordinance” and recent request by Wireless Partners to build a cell phone tower on City property near PWD Water Tower. – There was a discussion with Todd Rich regarding the placement of the new tower. Ron DeFilippo asked about various other agencies involved including the FAA and FCC. T. Rich answered that all Federal Agencies would be involved and permitted by Wireless Partners.

As of the date of this meeting no agreement has been made with the City to lease the land. Parcel will most likely be near the PWD Water Tower behind the Elementary School.

J. Arroyo asked how tall the Tower will be. T. Rich answered that it would be a mono – pole structure and probably about 20 feet higher than the tank itself. This would make the height about 90 to 100 feet.

H. French asked when the tower was complete, would people at the WaCo Diner get reception. The answer was yes.

At this M. Morse recommended that T. Rich and Wireless Partners thoroughly review the existing Eastport Wireless Communications Facility Siting Ordinance and get back to both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals with critical requirements that would need to be addressed. Communications would be through Robert Scott's email and he in turn would forward the information to both M. Morse and R. DeFilippo. Both board chairs would forward the information to each board member.

M. Morse suggested that when Wireless Partners has secured the land required for the tower and they have communicated back to R. Scott regarding the ordinance details that the PB would schedule another meeting. M. Morse asked R. DeFilippo if the ZBA wanted to be part of this meeting and the answer was no.

H. French made a motion based on M. Morse's recommendation. Seconded by T. Ries. The motion carried.

R. Scott recommended that when the time comes that both the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to hold Public hearings and that the Public Hearings be held jointly. Both Boards agreed.

Motion T. Ries, Second H. French to adjourn. The motion carried.