

**TOWN OF WESTFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2020 MEETING**
Approved on June 15, 2020

Commission/Board Members Present: Gordon Gebauer, Seth Jensen, George Lamphere and Mark Letorney.

Commission/Board Members Absent: Koi Boynton

Also, Present Allison Hope (Westford Selectboard), Heather Armata (town realtor), George Pigeon (town resident), Paul Birnholz (town resident), Kim Guidry (town resident) Taylor Newton (CCRPC) .

The meeting began at: 6:32 p.m.

Amendments to Agenda: No amendments proposed.

Citizens to be Heard, Announcements & Correspondence

No citizens to be heard, announcements or correspondence.

Discussion:

The Planning Commission scheduled this meeting to discuss with George Pigeon the current timeline and parameters now affecting the Planning Commission and Town regarding the efforts to find a way to purchase and/or develop the property located at 1705 VT Route 128. The Planning Commission explained to George Pigeon that due to the COVID-19 virus and the resulting delays and closures, the original timeline the Town had anticipated for working through this project is now pushed back. It could be 2-3 years before the Town is in a position to actually purchase the property. Before that happens, the Vermont Legislature would have to pass some sort of funding program (like the TIF that had been proposed as late as February 2020) that the Town could use to fund a large part of the purchase costs. The Town needs to have a funding source that does not result in a large property tax burden to the tax payers of the Town. The Town also has a number of inspections and investigations that need to be performed (and satisfactory results) before any purchase could happen. While it is possible the timeline could be shortened to 18 months, at this time there is no indication that situation will materialize.

George Pigeon did not seem very optimistic that his family would want to wait the possible 2-3 years before selling the property. He said he would think about the situation, discuss it with his family, and get back to us in a couple weeks.

Taylor advised that the PC should let him know by mid-June 2020 if the Town wanted to pursue a planning grant for this property.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by, Gordon Gebauer, Chair, Westford Planning Commission