

Planning Board – Public Hearing

Longmeadow High School Meeting Room A15 - 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA
Wednesday March 4th, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Ken Taylor, Bruce Colton, Josh Levine.

Others Present: None

The *Planning Board Regular Meeting* was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Donald Holland. The legal notice was originally published on a locally circulated newspaper (February 13th and February 20th) and at Town Hall more than 48 hours of said hearing. Copies of proposed amendments, as well as supporting documents that describe the MA Attorney General's decisions and timeline of bylaw's evolution, have been filed with the Town Clerk and the Department of Community Development.

Proposed amendments to Longmeadow Zoning By-law's Article XV:

Mr. Colton presented the amendments for said article, which entails the following:

- a) Add a new definition in the (B) DEFINITIONS section:
 "8. Facilities of natural gas utilities and facilities of pipeline operators include: Pressure regulating, pressurizing, odorizing, heating and fire suppressing equipment and associated building, pipes, valves, tanks and all other equipment and materials for handling and distributing natural gas."
 - Intent: to strengthen the definitions section per the MA Attorney General's suggestion.
- b) Within section (E), delete sub-section "5. Testing and Low Frequency Noise".
 - Intent: to simplify and strengthen the regulation of off-site noise caused by the facilities being regulated by this Article and simultaneously, eliminate redundancy within the bylaw's language since noise limitations are already addressed in Section E, sub-section 1.
- c) Add a last sentence in the article's section (I) PENALTIES AND FINES: "Fines, payable to the Town, shall be imposed at the rate of \$300.00 per day, for each day that such violation continues, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, Section 21."
 - Intent: to maintain the proposed fines per day within allowable zoning by-law violation thresholds under State law as pointed out by the MA Attorney General's Office, who deleted the sentence indicating the original proposed amount of \$1,000 per day during their review back in the fall.

Proposed amendment to Longmeadow Zoning By-law's Article IV, Section B, sub-section 6.6:

Mr. Colton explained that MA Attorney General's Office noted the lack of a definition for the term "connected facility", therefore the addition of a second sentence defining said term would add clarity to this portion of the sub-section. The proposed language reads as follows: *"a connected facility is any facility for receiving, processing, and otherwise handling natural gas for sale to consumers."*

Proposed amendment to Longmeadow Zoning By-law's Article XI, Section D, sub-section 1(m):

Mr. Colton explained that this amendment reinforces the Planning Board's already existing authority on the topic within the Site and Design Review process. The intent is to delete in the aforementioned article and section the words *"A traffic study to include:"* and replace them with *"At its discretion, the Planning Board may commission an independent traffic study, to be paid for by the Applicant, which shall include:"*.

Documents presented: Proposed By-law Amendments.

Walter Gunn made a motion, and was seconded by Bruce Colton, to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor 5-0 with none opposed, meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano