

Planning Board – Special Joint Meeting with Select Board

Zoom Virtual Platform – www.zoom.us, P: 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 818 7435 7425, Password: 675115

Monday October 18th, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Donald Holland, Chair; Walter Gunn, Clerk; Bruce Colton, Cheryl Thibodeau.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Zach Verriden, Chris Legiadre.

The *Planning Board's Special Joint Meeting with the Select Board* was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Select Board Chair Marc Strange. The purpose of the meeting is to interview two candidates that have applied for a Planning Board position recently vacated by the resignation of Ken Taylor.

Mr. Zach Verriden, the first applicant to be interviewed in the evening, has been Longmeadow a resident for a couple of years and has had a professional career heavily driven by civic engagement, having served a variety of roles in town with a commitment to excellence and equity. His experience as a former educator that has worked in building renovations with an emphasis on representing community views is something he hopes can be an asset to the board to promote diversity. If appointed, he intends to run for election in 2022 should his time on the board confirm his skills and contributions have met the board's needs. He has monitored the developments in the proposed zoning change for 916 Williams Street and believes that community gathering and voice is fundamental to ensuring the property is adequately adapted to meet the needs of the town for generations to come.

Mr. Chris Legiadre, the second applicant to be interviewed, has been a Longmeadow resident for approximately 6 years and is confident that his professional experience as a licensed architect with a background in real estate development and sustainable design will benefit the board. He is familiar with Planning Board proceedings as an applicant for projects in the Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey. While he has not had professional interactions with the Longmeadow Planning Board, he looks forward to understanding this board's particular functions and role within the community. Mr. Lachiusa pointed out three town buildings that face accessibility challenges or building repurpose and Mr. Legiadre indicated that building retrofitting encompasses a creative analysis of multiple needs to find a sustainable approach. Planning Board member Walter Gunn pointed out to potential conflicts of interest that could arise if Mr. Legiadre's career opportunities would collide with project reviews, to which Mr. Legiadre indicated that he would recuse himself from reviewing any projects should such conflicts arise. When Selectman Mark Gold pointed to the challenges of balancing community growth with character, Mr. Legiadre indicated that the passing of time does have an impact on vernacular architecture as communities, especially throughout New England, continue to evolve but that finding adequate ways to embrace the change can allow communities to thrive or otherwise face further challenges.

The next special joint meeting to vote on appointing one of the evening's two interviewees will be held on November 1st, 2021. With that said, Planning Board member Walter Gunn made a motion, and was seconded by Mrs. Thibodeau, to adjourn the special joint meeting. Roll call vote – Mr. Holland: yes; Mr. Gunn: yes; Mr. Colton: yes; Mrs. Thibodeau: yes. All in favor 4-0, motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca Damiano