

Town of Westminster
Planning Board
Phone: (978) 874-7414
Tracy Murphy, Town Planner

Gregg Buckman, Chair Marie N. Auger, Vice Chair Dan Bartkus Jodi Snyder Jacky Nally

February 14, 2023 Planning Board Minutes

Members present: Gregg Buckman, Marie Auger, Jodi Snyder, Jaclyn Nally, and Dan Bartkus
Town Planner, Tracy Murphy
Andrea Mastrotoro, Recording Secretary

Additional Attendees: Patrick McCarty, Brendan Reali of Atlantic Design Engineers, Colin Johanna, Tom Rutherford, Paula Burgess, Wes Flis and John Bowen

G. Buckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Administrative Matters

Approval of minutes from January 10, 2023

D. Bartkus made a motion to approve the minutes from January 10, 2023 with the correction.
M. Auger seconded. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

New Business

Next item on the agenda, Westminster Business Park Definitive Subdivision Extension Request

P. McCarty explained to the Board the reason for the extension request.

D. Bartkus made a motion to approve the 2 years extension. J. Nally seconded All in favor, motion carried (4-0-1), G. Buckman abstained.

New Business

7:05 Public Hearing – 6 Village Inn Road

Site Plan & Special Permit applications submitted by TJA Clean Energy, LLC to install a ground-mounted solar array on property located at 6 Village Inn Rd. The property is also known as Assessors map Map 113-Lot 126 (portion thereof) owned by Wachusett Village Inn, LLC and is located in both Commercial I and Residential I zoning districts.

G. Buckman read the notice into the minutes.

J. Nally made a motion to open the public hearing. J. Snyder seconded. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

B. Reali presented the project and explained the follow main points of the project:

- The full application has been submitted.
- The wetlands delineation was completed 2022.
- Stormwater Management has been submitted.
- Located in the Residential 1 and Commercial 1 districts.
- Located in the cell tower overlay district.
- Parcel subdivided into 3 lots.
- 1 flag lot 25.8 acres
- 7.8 acres are located within the fence.
- 10.8 acres remain undisturbed.
- The entire parcel is 88 acres
- The array is 4 megawatts
- The array has frontage on Village Inn Road.

J. Snyder asked if it were possible to add a sitewalk. B. Reali stated yes.

Public Comment

J. Bowen expressed his concerns this project would be detrimental to the abutters.

J. Bowen asked the following:

1. Would the solar effect cell service?
2. Would the clear cutting effect the noise from Route 2?
3. Final grade?
4. Panel height?
5. Number of panels?
6. Spacing?
7. Distance from the panels to the fence?
8. What material will be under the panels?

B. Reali responses are as follows:

1. No
2. No, there is plenty of buffer.
3. Remain the existing grade.
4. 6.2 feet
5. Approximately 8700 panels .
6. 9 feet.
7. Average 17 feet.
8. Grass.

The Board continued the hearing to February 28, 2023 at 7 pm.

7:15 Public Hearing 150 State Road E

Site Plan & Stormwater applications submitted by Victor Abdo of 8 Taymax Rd., Westminster to construct a 7,500 sq. ft. mixed use building at 150 State Rd. East. The property is owned by the applicant, is also known as Assessors map Map 92 parcel 9, and is located in the Commercial II district

G. Buckman read the notice into the minutes.

W. Flis presented the Site Plan and noted the main points of the project as follows:

- The parcel is 51,894 square feet.
- There is an abandoned house and garage existing on the site.
- The proposed structure is a 7500 square foot, mixed use building.
- Located in the Commercial 2 District.
- 2 stories, 7 units each floor.
- Majority of the units are residential.
- The top floor is all residential.
- New driveway will have access off State Road.
- 32 parking spots.
- Stormwater basin in the front of the parcel
- Tie into Town sewer.
- Run a new water line.
- Stormwater report has been submitted.
- Working with MassDOT for driveway access, using the existing curb cut.
- Working with the abutter on grading.

C. Johanna suggest a permanent easement with the abutter for the grading. The Peer Review had not been received at the time of the hearing. T Murphy stated that many have asked what the building is going to look like. The applicant agreed to produce something for the next hearing date.

The Board continued the hearing to March 14, 2023 at 7 pm.

Other Business

Lot 1-8 Theodore Dr. – New England Sheets, LLC Minor modification of Site Plan Approval and Stormwater Permit to accommodate access to the CSX Railroad Right of Way (ROW) on the northern side of the proposed building.

P. McCarty explained the minor modification as the relocation of the switch. The Conservation Commission approved the modification.

M. Auger made a motion to approve the modification. J. Snyder seconded. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Set Date for Public Hearing on potential Zoning Bylaw amendments –

- Short Term Rental
- Short Term Rental on Use table
- Cluster Development Bylaw modification

The Board had a brief discussion on the amendments. The Public Hearing will be held March 28, 2023 at 7 pm.

Meeting Adjourned 8:47 pm