

Lyme, NH
Planning Board minutes for meeting 9/22/16

Board members present: Jay Smith, John Stadler, Tim Cook, Vicki Smith, Eric Furstenberg

Board members absent: Amber Boland (alternate), Freda Swann (alternate).

Members of the public present: Rich Brown

Meeting opened 7:00pm

1. After brief edits John made a motion to pass the amended minutes for the 9/8/16 meeting. Vicki seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Rental forum scheduled for next planning board meeting at 7pm 10/13/16. Short Term Rentals (STR's), available on sites such as AirBnB, are becoming increasingly common. The forum grew out of the information provided from a webinar on STR's that alternate member, Amber Boland, participated in. A primary recommendation was for Planning Boards to seek input from the community in order to understand the public's concerns, if any.

The board discussed possible positive and negative issues associated with STR's. They provide people with extra income and increase spending in town. Safety issues, noise, parking and impact on neighborhoods are also considerations. The possibility of STRs circumventing the State rooms and meals tax was also discussed. Tim pointed out an article in the Valley News reporting that Vermont had an agreement with Air BnB to collect meals and rooms taxes directly. Tim passed out Air BnB ads listed in Lyme, printed from the internet. Jay noted that many had their State tax ID # listed on in the ad. Next, to the extent that STR's compete with Lyme's lodging establishments, there was discussion as to whether they might need to be subject to the same rules and regulations over conduct, hours of operation, etc. Finally, Lyme needs to consider the safety of all rental units in Lyme, short term or long term.

The board stressed that the first step in addressing these issues in a positive way was to collect information and opinions from the townspeople. This is the primary goal of the upcoming forum. The secondary goal is to consider and/or answer questions about any rental issues.

3. Zoning amendments: John noted that the board is waiting for input from legal council and therefore had nothing to discuss regarding the proposed amendments.

4. No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Furstenberg