

Town of Franklin



Planning Board

**August 12, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Chair Anthony Padula called the above-captioned meeting held at the Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA, to order this date at 7:18 PM; residents could attend and participate via the Zoom Platform. Planning Board Members in attendance: Anthony Padula, Joseph Halligan, William David, Gregory Rondeau, Rick Power. Members absent: None. Town Council members in attendance: Andrew Bissanti, Brian Chandler, Robert Dellorco, Eamon McCarthy Earls (via Zoom), Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegri. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney (via Zoom); Chrissy Whelton, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

7:00 PM Joint Meeting with the Town Council

Chair Padula stated this meeting is being held for the Planning Board Associate joint appointment.

► Mr. Hellen reviewed his memo of March 13, 2020, provided in the Town Council's meeting packet. He noted the previous Planning Board Associate member was elected as a full Planning Board member at the last November election rendering the associate seat vacant. He reviewed that board vacancies can be filled by the Town Council and Planning Board jointly until the next Town election on November 2, 2021. About 12 candidates were interviewed. The candidates before the Planning Board and Town Council tonight have provided their resumes and completed the Volunteer Form. He noted the Planning Board Associate member is not a full member of the Planning Board but fills in when needed. ► Town Council Chair Mercer stated that four candidates were brought forward. Three candidates are present at tonight's meeting: Mr. Cobi Frongillo, Ms. Beth Wierling, and Ms. Jennifer Williams. Mr. Gregory Giardino was unavailable to attend tonight's meeting. He asked each candidate to provide information about themselves. ► Mr. Frongillo reviewed his background and experience. He stated he is looking for an opportunity to get involved and contribute to the Town. ► Town Council members asked questions which Mr. Frongillo answered. ► Ms. Wierling provided her background and experience. She stated that she is already aware of the process and the people in Franklin and would look forward to begin selected. ► Town Council members asked questions which Ms. Wierling answered. ► Ms. Williams provided her background and experience. She stated that she is invested in seeing Franklin evolve. ► Town Council members asked questions which Ms. Williams answered. ► Chair Mercer thanked all the candidates for coming forward. ► Town Council members requested the views of the Planning Board members on the candidates. ► Chair Padula stated he believed all the applicants were qualified; it is a personal choice. ► Mr. Halligan stated all the candidates would be great. ► Mr. Cerel, Town Attorney, asked for a determination of what constitutes the selection of the candidate in regards to the vote. ► Chair Mercer stated a majority of the 14 votes, nine Town Council members and five Planning Board members, would be the determination. ► Town Council members discussed the candidates. ► Mr. Kelly stated that ultimately it is the Planning Board's choice as they have to work with the candidate; however, the Town Charter includes the Town Council as a joint appointment. He stated he is looking at only three candidates as the other candidate did not show up. This is a very difficult decision as there are three excellent

candidates. ► Mr. Bissanti thanked all the candidates who applied for this position. ► Mr. Earls stated this is a challenging pick.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Planning Board Members: Rondeau-Williams; Power-Frongillo; David-Williams; Halligan-Frongillo; Padula-Williams. Town Council Members: Bissanti-Frongillo; Chandler-Frongillo; Dellorco-Frongillo; Earls-Frongillo; Hamblen-Wierling; Jones-Williams; Kelly-Williams; Mercer-Williams; Pellegri-Wierling. ► VOTE: Williams-6, Frongillo-6, Wierling-2.

It was agreed that the low vote candidate was eliminated, and the joint committees voted again. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Planning Board Members: Rondeau-Williams; Power-Frongillo; David-Williams; Halligan-Frongillo; Padula-Williams. Town Council Members: Bissanti-Frongillo; Chandler-Frongillo; Dellorco-Frongillo; Earls-Frongillo; Hamblen-Frongillo; Jones-Williams; Kelly-Williams; Mercer-Williams; Pellegri-Williams. ► VOTE: Williams-7, Frongillo-7.**

► Mr. Cerel stated the committees may use any mechanism they would like to break the tie. ► Mr. Kelly suggested the Planning Board should make the decision as they have to work with the selected candidate. ► Chair Mercer suggested they vote again. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Planning Board Members: Rondeau-Williams; Power-Frongillo; David-Williams; Halligan-Williams; Padula-Williams. Town Council Members: Bissanti-Frongillo; Chandler-Frongillo; Dellorco-Frongillo; Earls-Frongillo; Hamblen-Frongillo; Jones-Williams; Kelly-Williams; Mercer-Williams; Pellegri-Williams. ► VOTE: Williams-8, Frongillo-6.**

► Chair Mercer thanked the candidates and welcomed Ms. Williams. He noted that there are many opportunities to volunteer for the Town, and there is also an upcoming election for various Town board/committee seats.

Motion to Adjourn the Planning Board meeting. Padula. Second: David. Vote: 5-0-0 (5-Yes; 0-No). Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi, AL
Recording Secretary

*****Approved at the Planning Board meeting on September 21, 2020**