

Town of Franklin

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PLANNING BOARD

January 31, 2024 Meeting Minutes

This Planning Board Meeting will be conducted with the Town Council in the Town Council Chambers at 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA, at 7:00 PM. The public has the option of attending the meeting live at the Town Hall or remotely. Please refer to the Town Council agenda for the Zoom link. Planning Board Members in attendance: Gregory Rondeau, Chair; Beth Wierling, Vice Chair; Jennifer Williams, Clerk; Jay Mello; Christopher Stickney. Members absent: None.

7:00 PM Commencement/General Business

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

Vote in new Associate Member

► **Joint Town Council and Planning Board Vote to Fill Associate Planning Board Vacancy.** ► Town Council Chair Thomas Mercer asked Planning Board Chair Greg Rondeau to open the Planning Board's meeting. ► Chair Rondeau stated that he opened the Planning Board meeting for the appointment of an associate member for the current open position. ► Town Administrator Jamie Hellen reviewed his memo to the Town Council dated January 26, 2024. He said before the Town Council is the joint appointment of the associate Planning Board member. He said there is a vacancy because the former associate member, Jay Mello, was elected as a full member. He said this appointment is for the remaining two years of the four-year term. He explained the process and said that any member can nominate anyone to fill this seat. He said we are recommending the appointment of Mark Mucciarone as an associate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire on November 4, 2025. He reviewed that Mr. Mucciarone was first individual who applied and showed interest, as far back as last September. He noted that a handful of others applied. Upon interviewing each person, each applicant withdrew when they were educated on what the Planning Board does and time commitment among many other reasons. He said that since Chair Rondeau opened the Planning Board meeting, the Town Council and Planning Board can move forward with the deliberation on appointing the Planning Board associate member for the remaining two years of the term. ► Chair Mercer said he will open nominations. He said that because anybody can nominate anybody, the resolution was put in place without a name. He said the combination of the Town Council and the Planning Board need to put a name in those spots. He said he opens up nominations for the associate member Planning Board vacancy. ► **MOTION** to nominate Mark Mucciarone for the Planning Board associate member position by **Planning Board Chair Rondeau**. ► **SECOND** by **Councilor Dellorco**. ► Chair Mercer asked if there were any other nominations; there were none. ► Chair Mercer declared the nominations closed. ► Councilor Jones confirmed the spelling of Mr. Mucciarone's name and read the appointment. ► **MOTION** that the Franklin Town Council and Planning Board hereby vote to appoint Mark Mucciarone to fill the Associate Planning Board vacancy with a term to expire November 4, 2025, by **Jones**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **Discussion:** ► Planning Board member Beth Wierling said being a member of any board can be rewarding and challenging. She said on the Planning Board you have to be neutral and cannot really put your own emotion and opinions into whether something should or should not be allowed. She asked Mr. Mucciarone if he felt comfortable being on a board where we need to be neutral. ► Mr. Mucciarone said he understands that he needs to keep the personal part out of it. He explained that from his past experience, he can make those difficult decisions

and be impartial. ► Councilor Frongillo thanked Mr. Mucciarone for stepping up. He asked what he sees the role of the Planning Board. ► Mr. Mucciarone said the Planning Board is governed by the bylaws and the laws of the state and they would have to be applied to make the decisions on the projects or issues at hand. He said he would like to be a part of what Franklin is going to be like in the future. ► Councilor Frongillo reviewed how the Planning Board is defined online. He said he thinks that you see in all communities as the Planning Board seeing themselves as the line of defense against possible change and impacts to current residents and he thinks when we talk about welfare and the interests of the community that involves our ability to continue to afford to pay the services that we all enjoy and keep the budget balanced. He asked that Mr. Mucciarone weigh in the balance our ability to need to grow with our ability and need to be fair to the current residents. ► Councilor Dellorco said there will be no problem with Mr. Mucciarone doing his homework and standing up to anybody. ► Councilor Jones said he has no doubt Mr. Mucciarone will do a good job and thanked him for stepping up. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Town Council Members: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. Planning Board Members: Wierling-YES; Williams-YES; Mello-YES; Stickney-YES; Rondeau-YES. ► TOTAL VOTE: Unanimous.**

► *Motion to close the Planning Board public hearing for the nomination of the associate Planning Board member and Adjourn the Planning Board Meeting. Rondeau. Second: Wierling. Vote: 5-0 (5-Yes; 0-No).*

Planning Board Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi,
Recording Secretary

--Planning Board approved Minutes at March 11, 2024 meeting