

Shaftsbury Planning Commission

Regular meeting held remotely by GoToMeeting June 23, 2020

The meeting came to order via teleconference at 6 p.m. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Cichanowski, Mike Foley, and Naomi Miller. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

The group discussed Mr. Williams's memo to the Select Board regarding proposed Roadside Commercial (RC) zones and the map Ms. Stiles made reflecting the memo's contents. After discussion, it was agreed that the Commission would recommend to the Select Board that, regarding the commercial cluster at Hidden Valley Road, an RC zone would be proposed for the 500' east and west of the Route 7A right of way line on the parcels belonging to Becker, Huncharek, Hulett, Herzfeld, Buxbaum, and Knafel, all of which now support commercial uses.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the June 9 2020 minutes. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1, with Ms. Miller abstaining.

The on-going discussion on kennels and animal grooming facilities was continued. All agreed to the following:

- That kennels should be a conditional use.
- That kennels should be allowed in commercial and R zones.
- That large lots with setbacks for animal activities should be required.
- That a way to handle neighbor noise complaints should be crafted.

Mr. Cichanowski suggested separating the boarding use from the grooming use by explicitly not allowing boarding in some settings but staying silent on the grooming issue (in which case it could be left up to the DRB to decide).

In addition to the unresolved issues above, there is left to be resolved the question of limiting the number of animals, and to how many.

Ms. Miller said her last meeting would be the second meeting in August, when her term expires.

Mr. Williams asked Ms. Stiles to think about creating an addition to the website that would help the average person understand what is needed to get a zoning permit in certain common situations, such as building a new home or opening a new business. He thinks the bylaw can be overwhelming for some people.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Notes by ZA Stiles.