

Special Meeting

1. Acting Chairman Ken Knowles called the meeting to order at 8:15am in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town Offices on the above date. Six full members and the Board of Selectmen representative were present.

2. BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Brown, Pete Cameron, Katherine Woolhouse, Gwen English, Kelly Bergeron, Ken Knowles, Don Clement (BOS Rep), Langdon Plummer (alternate), Rob Mike-Mayer (alternate). STAFF PRESENT: Sylvia von Aulock (Town Planner).

3. NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers.

Mr Knowles explained the purpose of the meeting was to elect officers from the full members as directed by the Board of Selectmen.

Ms English began by expressing concerns regarding the process leading to reelection of officers and perceives the Selectboard as dictating the actions of the Planning Board by "forcing" the meeting to be held.

Mr Knowles responded that he called the meeting in order to resolve the issue of officer elections before the scheduled Planning Board meeting on May 14th, in order to not inconvenience applicants and in order to have officers in place going into the meeting.

Mr Plummer agree the board was meeting to save time, stating "we've been accused of dragging our feet".

Mr Mike-Mayer expressed concern that the process was conducted properly and should not have been rescinded and redone.

Mr Clement explained that State RSA 673:8 in regards to officer elections must be followed and trumps the town regulations.

Mr Brown asked if the Board had been in violation of the RSA by electing alternate members to officer positions.

Mr Clement replied that Town Manager Russ Dean had inquired of Town Counsel if the process had followed RSA statutes and was informed it had not done so.

Mr Cameron asked if all communication had been in writing.

Mr Clement replied that it had been and that the Selectboard has that communication.

Mr Cameron replied that he was troubled unless it had all been in writing.

Several members discussed the need for transparency moving forward.

Ms von Aulock brought up the fact that the current written Exeter Planning Board Procedures regarding appointments mentioned the ability to appoint alternates.

Mr Knowles responded that the updating the Planning Board Procedures in order to comply with State RSAs was discussed 3/12/15 and is part of the public record.

Ms von Aulock further commented on approval of Exeter Planning Board processes, and that they conflict with other regulations.

Ms Bergeron encouraged members to discontinue the disagreements and arguing, and move forward in order to get the work of the Planning Board accomplished.

Mr Cameron agreed the group needed to move forward, but was still troubled by the questions asked by the Town Manager of counsel..

Ms von Aulock suggested having counsel comment available in writing at a subsequent meeting.

Mr Clement commented that the Selectboard has the final decision regarding which members of the Planning Board are appointed as full members.

Mr Mike-Mayer commented that it seemed everything had been verbal and nothing was in writing.

Mr Clement mentioned the Board was to have received a letter from the Chair of the Selectboard explaining the legal reasons behind the decision. When members replied they had not received this letter, Mr Clement promised to look into it and make sure it was forwarded.

A motion to appoint Kelly Bergeron as Chair was made by Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Clement. Mr Knowles, Ms Bergeron, Mr Brown, Ms Woolhouse, and Mr Clement voted in favor; Ms English and Mr Cameron abstained.

A motion to appointing Katherine Woolhouse as Vice Chair was made by Mr Clement, seconded by Ms Bergeron. Mr Knowles, Ms Bergeron, Mr Brown, Ms Woolhouse, Mr Clement, Ms English and Mr Cameron all voted in favor.

Mr Clement left the meeting at approximately 9:50am.

A motion to appoint Mr Cameron as Clerk was made by Mr Brown, seconded by Ms English. Mr Knowles, Ms Bergeron, Mr Brown, Ms Woolhouse, Ms English and Mr Cameron all voted in favor

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Bergeron, Chair, Exeter Planning Board