

draft

WISCASSET ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES, APRIL 12, 2021
VIA ZOOM

Present: Members Jackie Lowell, Chair Karl Olson, Don Oyster, and Anna Ridle. Mary Ellen Barnes, Emily Rabbe, Sarah Whitfield and Terry Heller were also present.

Absent: Al Cohen and Chris Juntura

1. Call to Order

Karl Olson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Don Oyster moved to accept the minutes of March 8, 2021. Vote 4-0-0.

3. Approval of Solar Energy Ordinance draft

Karl Olson moved to accept the revised draft Solar ordinance. Vote 4-0-0. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of charging for the amount of electricity produced by the solar installation. The draft will be forwarded to the Planning Board for a public hearing on April 26 at 7 p.m.

4. Downtown Sidewalk Policy

Reporting on the site walk, Karl Olson said there is a clear path on the sidewalk on both sides of Main Street to accommodate pedestrians with additional space for merchants to display merchandise. Suggestions contained in an email from Mary Ellen Barnes and Emily Rabbe were discussed. They included a description of the area covered, a suggestion to expand the policy to cover the period from April 1 to January 1, a better description of the area available to the merchants, and an addition to 3-e that snow removal and sidewalk sweeping be added. Karl Olson suggested the following wording under Performance Standards: A 50-inch minimum continuous, unobstructed pedestrian walkway without stairs on the sidewalks covered under the policy shall be maintained. It was suggested that the application contain a map or diagram to enable the merchants to show how the 50-inch walkway would be maintained. Mary Ellen Barnes will try to obtain a map or drawing of the sidewalks from the DOT to include with the application. It will be necessary to consult with Dennis Simmons on the enforceability of a policy vs. an ordinance and there was a suggestion that a legal opinion be obtained on the enforceability of the policy. A revised draft of the policy and a draft application will be sent to members.

5. Marijuana Ordinance Draft

A draft of questions to be discussed at a public hearing were discussed. The answers to questions will lead to the draft of a marijuana ordinance. No further work can be done on the ordinance until it is determined what the townspeople want. A series of workshops plus education of the public will be necessary before a final draft of the ordinance can be written. It was suggested that

someone from the State be invited to the workshop to be available to answer questions. Sarah Whitfield has offered to help with the workshops. Workshops could be done via zoom or in person depending on the Covid situation. A survey was also suggested. Mary Ellen Barnes suggested that the board educate itself on the marijuana laws. She will provide name of potential people from the State that could assist in workshops.

6. Other Business

7. Adjournment

Jackie Lowell moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.