

PLANNING BOARD - TOWN OF MACHIAS

MAY 2, 2018

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Bill Thompson. In attendance were Board members Ed Pellon, Joe Gurney, and Arthur McCurdy; Secretary Cathy Lord; Town Manager Christina Therrien; Code Enforcement Officer Betsy Fitzgerald; Josh Rolfe, Bob Berta.

1. MINUTES - REVIEW AND ACTION

On a motion by Joe Gurney, seconded by Arthur McCurdy, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2018 Board meeting.

Note: Mr. Thompson had read into the record a letter received from Loretta McClellan stating her objection to plans by U.S. Cellular to place a cell tower on North Street in Machias.

2. BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS - REVIEW AND ACTION

A. The members of the Board reviewed a building permit application submitted by Nelson Clark for the construction of a two-car garage on a lot located at 42 Gardner Avenue.

On a motion by Ed Pellon, seconded by Joe Gurney, the Board
VOTED:

To approve a building permit application submitted by Nelson Clark for the construction of a two-car garage on a lot located at 42 Gardner Avenue.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. The Board discussed plans by U.S. Cellular to erect a telecommunications tower in Machias. Members of the Board noted that many, many Machias residents are concerned that U.S. Cellular is planning to place a cell tower on North Street. Mr. Thompson noted that U.S. Cellular had submitted a building permit but the company now feels that they do not require a permit asking for permission to erect the tower since these types of structures are not addressed in the Machias building ordinance. Town Manager Christina Therrien explained that there is now a moratorium in effect against this type of construction. Mr. Thompson recommended that the Town draft a letter to U.S. Cellular advising the company of the moratorium in effect and suggesting that the company withdraw their application. Mr. Pellon suggested sending back the company's check with a letter of explanation outlining the moratorium that is now in place. After a discussion by the Board on how to proceed, Mr. Thompson asked that the company's entire application along with their check be returned explaining the action taken by Machias citizens enacting a moratorium against construction of tower structures within Machias.

On a motion by Arthur McCurdy, seconded by Ed Pellon, the Board
VOTED:

That the Town of Machias return a building permit application and fee submitted by
U.S. Cellular for placement of a cell tower on North Street.

B. The Board reviewed a sample ordinance addressing communication structures. It was
suggested that the Board obtain other samples to review.

Ms. Therrien provided members of the Board with copies of the moratorium ordinance
passed by residents on April 1st which is in force for one hundred eighty days. Ms.

Therrien explained that the Board of Selectmen can extend the existing moratorium for
another one hundred eighty days after the initial one hundred eighty days has transpired.

Mr. Thompson noted that the Planning Board can begin to look at drafting an ordinance
that will meet the needs of Machias. Mr. McCurdy suggested that the Board also consider
including language addressing the construction of windmills when developing an
ordinance.

On a motion by Joe Gurney, seconded by Arthur McCurdy, the Board voted to adjourn
the meeting at 7:22 PM.