

Wilmington Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday June 5, 2020 at 8:00 AM by Zoom

Open Meeting

Cheryl LaFlamme opened the meeting at 8:00 AM.

In attendance: Cheryl LaFlamme, chair, John Lebron, Meg Staloff, Angela Yakovleff

Mike Tuller, Zoning Administrator, Scott Tucker, Town Manager

Select Board members: Tom Fitzgerald, Sarah Fisher, John Gannon

Visitors: Mike Eldred, Gretchen Havreluk

The Planning Commission attended a hearing of the Wilmington Select Board to address the proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance article 531B, adding subsection #7.

Tom Fitzgerald asked Cheryl to explain the proposal.

The Planning Commission thinks it is important to make a temporary change in the present zoning ordinance (article 531B #7) in the downtown. In light of the present closures due to the pandemic they would like to have the Select Board approve the addition of #7, " Businesses may erect temporary fencing or other means of delineating outdoor areas for the sole purpose of extending dining for a period of no more than 120 days from the date of approval by the Zoning Administrator." This would fast track restaurants' ability to open outdoor seating temporarily.

Meg noted that by law the change would be on the books for two years, but a permit would only be issued for up to 120 days. Once that expires another may be applied for if circumstances do not change.

Gretchen voiced concern over restaurants using this to add to present capacity limits. All present limits would have to be followed. This does not allow additional capacity.

John Gannon said he hoped that this would move forward. A motion was made and approved by the Select Board to amend zoning ordinance article 531B by adding subsection #7.

The hearing was closed at 8:14 AM.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 8:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Yakovleff, Scribe