

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

MIDDLEFIELD TOWN HALL

APRIL 19, 2024

MINUTES

The meeting came to order at 6:32. Board members present were Mary Courtney, Sherri Venditti and Maureen Sullivan. Doreen Black was in attendance.

The board read and approved the amended minutes of November 28, 2023 and read, amended and approved the minutes of April 12, 2024.

The board preceded to address the previous meeting's (April 12, 2024) discussion between the board and Tamarin Paine. Ms. Courtney provided an example of another town's rules regarding public input and questions. She felt the board should be more forthcoming with answering potential applicants' general questions.

Ms. Sullivan pointed out that Ms. Paine's email to Ms. Courtney had requested "insights into your [Ms. Courtney's] legal mind" and that the email detailed, in her due diligence, Ms. Paine had reached her own conclusion that there was no path via the town zoning bylaws to accomplish what she wished to do, that is, operate a shelter. Ms. Sullivan concurred with Ms. Courtney that offering instructive suggestions, such as where to look in the Zoning Bylaws for relevant bylaws or how to apply to the ZBA for a variance, special permit or section 6 finding, to a potential applicant is a valid case for giving guidance. However, in her opinion, Ms. Paine had been asking for more specific advice from the board.

Ms. Venditti had a more restrictive view of the assistance/advice the board could safely offer. The three members came to an agreement that a middle road would be the best approach.

During the discussion Ms. Black (planning board chair) reported that she had been cc'd on Ms. Paine's email to Mary Courtney. She said that she would be sending the email to the other members of the planning board.

The board adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Sullivan