

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



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WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK

AGENDA & NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 30A, Sections 18-25 of the General Laws, as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the following board, committee, or commission will be held on the date and time specified below. Said meeting will be open to the public and press and will be recorded.

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Planning Board – Meeting

DATE: July 21, 2020

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Meeting Attendance Directions (via Zoom):

Meeting ID: 929 7622 2841

Password: 5810135

To join via computer (option for video and/or audio)

<https://winchendonk12.zoom.us/j/92976222841?pwd=V0hJTURoZXY4ME1XcFVhVzJZN2FBUT09>

or

go to www.zoom.com and click 'join meeting' then follow prompts using info above

To join via phone

One tap mobile +19294362866,,92976222841#,,,0#,,5810135# US (New York)

or

Dial in at +1 929 436 2866 and enter the meeting info above as prompted

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Winchendon Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the town's website, at www.townofwinchendon.com. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to observe the meeting may do so via zoom using the information provided above. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Notice- The above topics do not prohibit additional last-minute or unforeseen matters.

The meeting room is handicapped accessible. With advance notice the Planning Board can arrange reasonable accommodation for persons with other disabilities. To request assistance, contact the Department of Planning & Development at 978-297-3537.

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LOCATION: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements
3. Public Comment
4. Business:

Reorganization of Board Positions – Chair & Vice-Chair

Central Street – The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously their approval of the Central Street layout to be forwarded to the Planning Board for their review and recommendation. This will return to the BoS to be considered for warrant inclusion and Town Meeting vote.

Lincoln Solar Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal – The original consideration of this parcel didn't include all of the project/parcels to be removed from Chapter 61. A recommendation on the updated property has been requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Lincoln Solar Project Closeout – Project has been completed and drawings/construction are stamped in compliance with the approvals.

Happy Hollow Solar Project Closeout - Project has been completed and drawings/construction are stamped in compliance with the approvals.

Discussion of Master Plan Committee – While this was envisioned to be a 7 member committee, only 5 slots are currently filled. This makes meetings difficult to hold due to quorum issues. The Board is asked to consider reducing the committee to 5 members to ensure this work can continue.

5. Minutes – none
6. Correspondence Update – see packet
7. Adjourn

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, G. L. c. 30A, § 20**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, many important functions of State and Local Government are executed by “public bodies,” as that term is defined in G. L. c. 30A, § 18, in meetings that are open to the public, consistent with the requirements of law and sound public policy and in order to ensure active public engagement with, contribution to, and oversight of the functions of government; and

WHEREAS, both the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“DPH”) have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons; and

WHEREAS, low-cost telephone, social media, and other internet-based technologies are currently available that will permit the convening of a public body through virtual means and allow real-time public access to the activities of the public body; and

WHEREAS section 20 of chapter 30A and implementing regulations issued by the Attorney General currently authorize remote participation by members of a public body, subject to certain limitations;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

(1) A public body, as defined in section 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, is hereby relieved from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

Adequate, alternative means of public access shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of the public body. Such means may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while those activities are occurring. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access must provide for such participation.

A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the public.

A public body must offer its selected alternative means of access to its proceedings without subscription, toll, or similar charge to the public.

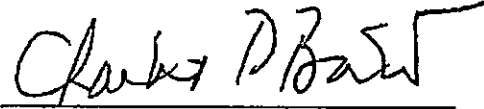
(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby suspended.

(3) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in sections (1) or (2) above shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided in section (2).

(4) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25 of chapter 30A and the Attorney General's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 6:40 PM this 12th day of
March, two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles D. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts