

Swarthmore Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date January 20, 2020

Commission Attendees	Chris DeBruyn – Chair, Acting Secretary Steve Minton - Pending Secretary Nancy Templeton Don Jones Douglas Perry	Rex Brien Laura Poltronieri David Virgil James Levine Elizabeth Jenkins
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Also in Attendance

Betsy Larsen Jane Billings Claudia Cueto	Borough Council Liason Borough Manager EAC Member
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Meeting Location Online Meeting

- C. DeBruyn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 PM

OLD BUSINESS

- Motion was made to approve the minutes from the November meeting of the Planning Commission.
 - Motion was unanimously approved.
- Discussion of Ordinance Section:1288.04 **Lots and Lot Sizes**
 - Continued discussion deferred to a future meeting.
- Chris noted that a DELCORA recommendation by Judge panel to PUC to reject the Aqua/DELCORA proposal was handed down this week.

NEW BUSINESS

- Reorganization:
 - Vice Chair Denise Disney is taking a break from the planning commission, after over 10 years of service on this committee. Her consistently thoughtful and challenging input will be missed.
 - Elizabeth is installed as a full member, in addition to her service to the borough as Chair of the EAC.
 - Chris DeBruyn was nominated as chair, and seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - No candidate was presented for vice chair. The vote is to be postponed.
- Solar Equipment Ordinance
 - Definition: Less permissive definition doesn't seem significantly less permissive, but is simpler. General preference for this in discussion.
 - Important points: Tie the solar to generally meet the needs of the primary residence

- Does this need to control (or can we control with zoning) the function of the system?
- Installation locations:
 - On primary residence roof, by right?
 - On accessory structures by right?
 - Must meet all the usual requirements.
 - Would ground mounted installations require additional approvals?
 - Installation in the zoning setback zones?
- Screening
 - EAC preference is to examine the code for screening requirements that might include solar equipment, and determine a method to exclude the solar equipment from screening.
 - Electrical storage systems (Tesla Power Wall, etc) should be screened or not?
- Height limitations:
 - Laura – no height restrictions would be more conducive to solar
 - Chris – excessive height above roof would increase risk of panels becoming dislodged.
 - Claudia – Excluding the systems from requirements with regard to the max height, and limiting them to 6' max above the roof line would adequately cover most residential installations

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held Wednesday February 17, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

End of Meeting Minutes