

## MEETING OF THE LAND USE COMMITTEE 9-24-2020

The meeting started at 6 pm on Zoom. Present were Lees Hartman, chair; Kathy Flaxman, Sybil Freedman, Rod Henderer, Eric Murtagh, Sarah Runge, David Valenstein, and Irene Lane, Council liaison.

Lees called the meeting to order at 6:05. He noted that all previous committee members have signed on again and we have one new member, David Valenstein.

Public comments: None.

Open Meetings Act: Lees reminded members that as a Town committee we are covered by the Open Meetings Act. Members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and speak during the public comments segment. Other than administrative topics, committee business should not be conducted via group email.

Scheduling future meetings: The Town has the LUC meetings scheduled for the fourth Thursdays of every month, but as usual November (Thanksgiving) and December (Christmas Eve) are problematic. Tentative replacement dates of 11/30 for 11/26 and 12/16 for 12/24 will be suggested to the members not present.

### **Work items for 2020-21:**

- ADUs: A work session is scheduled for October 14 regarding the committee's recommendations around ADUs. Lees has provided the Council with information on existing accessory buildings that might be converted, possible new ADUs, and our recommendations regarding setbacks and Town authority for regulations. Our recommendations including the rear setback of 20% of lot depth (vs. the County's 12-foot requirement) will be discussed at the work session.
- Zimmerman Park plans: The committee awaits further instructions. Town staff and the landscape architect are working on a draft plan.
- Rosemary Circle as an alternate Dog Exercise Area: The Town gets periodic emails suggesting Rosemary Circle as a site for a DEA. There is no current action, but there is thought being given to having a DEA there only on weekends, which would reduce issues of school and traffic. Perhaps alternating weekends with Zimmerman Park.
- Canopy tree removal: There has been concern expressed about the recent rate of removal of canopy trees. Is it really increasing, or is it just more noticeable to people who are spending most of their time at home? Lees noted that the Town does have data. Tree removal permits can be found on the Town website, by year since 2009. Irene reported that she has spoken with the chair of the Climate and Environment Committee, and that this could be a chance to work together.

- Applicability of County Legislation and the Town's General Exemption: Under Maryland law the Town may exempt itself from most County laws. Certain laws the Town cannot exempt itself from including taxes, public health, and zoning. Going back to 1988, the Town has chosen to opt into such laws, rather than opt out. Question for the committee: Are there sections of the County code that the Town might want to adopt?

Next meeting will be Thursday, October 22 from 7 to 9 pm on Zoom. Lees will check the proposed November and December dates with the absent committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.