

St. George Board of Appeals

Meeting Minutes

St. George Town Office

July 21, 2022 at 7:00pm

A Board of Appeals meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present in person were: Chair Steve Miller, Mark Bartholomew, Jane Conrad, Sandra Roak, Richard Cohen, Evy Blum, Richard Bates and Magan Wallace

Quorum:

Four regular members were present. Sandra Roak, an alternate, was raised to voting status. A quorum of five was present.

Member Introductions:

Members of the board, excluding Bill Reinhardt who was absent, introduced themselves.

Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda were made.

Election of Officers

Chair Miller

Megan and I had a discussion and she thought that we had to have five members. I didn't confirm; I thought we'd all be here tonight. It is my understanding we need five regular members to hold an election and that having somebody elevated may or may not work. So, let's have that discussion. Bill may join in at some point, but if I elevate Sandra to a voting member, how does that sit with the board? I don't remember reading that protocol.

Jane Conrad

Per the town charter we just need to have a majority of the total and since we have four regular members here, that's a majority of the total, without alternates.

Richard Cohen

We've done that for other votes. I just would like to bring that out before we start.

Mark Bartholomew

I don't have any problems with it. I think we're good.

Chair Miller

I think we're good to go. Is that okay Sandra because you'll be elevated to voting status? I'm not sure what happened to Mr. Reinhardt.

Sandra Roak

I'm fine with that. If he appears then I'll step back step down if you want.

Chair Miller

Sandra will now be a voting member for this evening. So, we have four regular members and now, Sandra be able to vote, so we have five members.

Mark Bartholomew

Do we need a motion?

Chair Miller

No, the chair just elevates it.

Jane Conrad

Do we do the whole slate at once or can we vote on each person?

Chair Miller

I think we do it one at a time but I'm not sure. We have never had a multi officer board before, so this is new.

Mark Bartholomew

I think we do it one at a time.

Chair Miller

So that brings up one more point for the general votes like this. We've been back and forth. The lawyers are adamant but that was only for the appeals that we need to do a roll call vote. I don't think it's necessary for our elections. Can I get the general consensus of the board on this because we're kind of entering new territory.

A motion was made by Cohen, seconded by Bartholomew, to nominate Miller as Chair of the Appeals Board. By a 5-0 vote, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Bartholomew, seconded by Roak, to nominate Conrad as Vice-Chair of the Appeals Board. A motion was made by Miller to nominate Cohen as Vice-Chair of the Appeals Board, with no second nomination. One candidate was thus established, and by a 5-0 vote, the motion to nominate Conrad carried.

Chair Miller

Now we have a vote for the Secretary.

Jane Conrad

The Secretary isn't the recording secretary. It's the appointed person on the board who is responsible for making sure the records are kept and keeping in touch with Megan, Terry and Tammy.

Jane Conrad

I'm not sure if one person can serve in two capacities but legally, we are supposed to have a secretary and we're not going to make somebody do it who doesn't want to do it.

Mark Bartholomew

Is there anything that says that one person cannot hold two offices?

Jane Conrad

Well, that's what I was wondering. I'm not sure.

Mark Bartholomew

Because you've been acting as secretary since you've been on the board.

Jane Conrad

I'd be willing to accept the office, it it's allowed.

A motion was made by Bartholomew, seconded by Roak, to nominate Conrad as Secretary of the Appeals Board. By a 5-0 vote, the motion carried.

Review of the Minutes

Bartholomew made a motion to waive the reading of the May 12, 2022 minutes, seconded by Conrad. By a 5-0 vote, the motion was carried.

Conrad made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 12, 2022 as received, seconded by Mr. Bartholomew. By a 5-0 vote, the motion was carried.

Appeals

There are no appeals currently.

Other Business

Mark Bartholomew

When do we have to be sworn in again?

Bates

Evy has been sworn in already as a new member, but I don't think anyone else needs to be sworn in.

Mark Bartholomew

Do we do that for a term or is it annual?

Richard Cohen

I think it's via term.

Mark Bartholomew

Alternates are term.

Bates

Oh, that's right. Sandra needs to be sworn in because alternates are for one year.

Jane Conrad

Is it the town clerk who administers?

Bates

Yes, Evy when you came in, you saw Patty and did it then, right? I don't know what the wording is exactly.

Evy Blum

I didn't read it.

Jane Conrad

Essentially, it states that members follow Maine state law and the ordinances of the Town of St. George. It's legal and binding. We don't get to just follow whatever would be our personal ideas.

Chair Miller

We basically go by the rules and the evidence and not the popular vote which I'm sorry to say might make you quite unpopular at times. We've had a few of those. But it's an interesting job. I think you'll enjoy it. I hope you don't get in too much work.

Megan Wallace

Sandra, I'll have Patty print up your paperwork and I'll send you an email and give you a call.

Jane Conrad

Megan, are you the one that maintains a list of when people's terms are up?

Megan Wallace

No Patty does all that, for all the boards.

Mark Bartholomew

As Secretary, that would be one of the things you would keep track of, I think.

Bates

Richard, didn't your term renew?

Richard Cohen

My term renewed.

Bates

You should come in please and see Patty.

Richard Cohen

That's why I like to work with Jane, she represents the board and keeps watch for that.

Jane Conrad

It's good to keep track of these. Be in touch with Patty about that.

Adjourn

Bartholomew moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm, seconded by Cohen. By a 5-0 vote, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Taylor
Recording Secretary
Town of St. George, Maine