

January 7, 2022

ZOOM ONLY MEETING ON 1.10.22 CONCERN

Richard, Carl and Mike =

Happy New Year.

I do not have an e-mail address for Jane or Mike Baptiste.  Please share this e-mail with them as well.

I am writing regarding my concerns re: the Wareham Planning Board moving to a Zoom only

format starting on the January 10th Planning Board meeting specifically for the following reasons:

1. There has been no public notice for this change.  I only found out that this change will

occur next Monday because a person, who received a unique notice (I don’t know from

what utility), forwarded it to me.  I was requested – as were others – to pass the notice

out to anyone I could think of.   Word-of-mouth only mode of notification is not a substantial –

and quite possibly not a legal - way to notify citizens of key changes to how citizen input to the

Wareham Planning Board occurs.

               I did notice that something was on the town website (a banner?) when I was looking for

               other information on one day only.

I searched the town website today and nothing was there regarding the change.

There was no notice in Wareham Week.  There were no posters/memos/etc. notifying

citizens of this that I could find.

1. Why is sufficient notice of the change important?   The current agenda online,

the 1.10.22 Planning Board meeting will address several continuation of public hearings

for solar sites, one in particular at Fearing Hill.

The Fearing Hill project is highly contentious and has had citizen participation in the

public meetings right from the beginning.  In one of the last meetings, citizens requested

to be allowed to give their input.  This request was made, specifically, because the applicant

continues to not attend and/or not provide information requested, and other reasons –

some apparently legitimate, some maybe not - to continue the public meeting.

Because the applicant was not represented, these citizens were told they needed to hold

their input for another time.  NOW THAT OPPORTUNITY IS THIS COMING MONDAY AND

THE PLANNING BOARD IS CHANGING HOW IT OPERATES WITHOUT LEGAL AND SUFFICIENT NOTICE.

Therefore, these citizens could easily be robbed/cheated/etc. from giving their input because

they won’t even know that the rules to participate were changed.  Essentially they will be robbed

of their citizens’ rights.  Even though there are a number of citizens involved, some who may

stumble across the change to Zoom only, the Planning Board does not have a legal right to say

“Well, there were enough/other citizens on the Zoom meeting therefore this is okay”.

1. Lastly, if the above isn’t serious enough, the agenda posted on the town website lists a Zoom

link but it is not structured correctly to make the link work.  If you click on it, nothing happens.

That, then means, if there’s even a chance for a citizen to attend via Zoom, he/she will have to

enter a web address of 30-40 characters – make sure he/she has it correctly and then probably

need a password that is not provided.

I appreciate all the Planning Board’s efforts.  Please address the above before the Monday meeting.

Thank you.

***Tricia Wurts***

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