



**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD  
PLANNING BOARD  
TOWN HALL, 85 MAIN STREET  
PITTSFIELD, NH 03263**

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**MEETING MINUTES OF Thursday May 7, 2020**

**ITEM 1. - CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order at 7:06 P.M. by Clayton Wood, Vice Chairman.

**ITEM 2. – ROLL CALL**

Daren Nielsen

Adam Gauthier

Clayton Wood – Vice Chairman

Jim Adams - Ex officio Alternate

Ray Ramsey – Alternate

Ray Ramsey is sitting in for Matt St. George

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Matt St. George

Carl Anderson – Ex officio Alternate

**ITEM 3. –PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**ITEM 4. – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2020 MEETING**

Clayton Wood motioned to approve the March 5, 2020 meeting minutes.

Daren Nielsen: Second.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried 2-0-3. Clayton Wood – yes, Daren Nielsen – yes.

Adam Gauthier, Jim Adams, and Ray Ramsey abstain because they weren't at the last meeting.

**ITEM 5. – DISCUSS AND VOTE ON POSITIONS FOR THE CURRENT TERM (first meeting after March 10, 2020 election)**

Clayton Wood motioned to vote Adam Gauthier in as the Planning Board Chair.

Ray Ramsey: Second.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried 5-0-0. Clayton Wood – yes, Daren Nielsen – yes, Adam Gauthier – yes, Jim Adams – yes, Ray Ramsey – yes.

Adam Gauthier motioned to vote Matt St. George in as the Planning Board Vice Chair.

Clayton Wood: Second.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried 5-0-0. Clayton Wood – yes, Daren Nielsen – yes, Adam Gauthier – yes, Jim Adams – yes, Ray Ramsey – yes.

Clayton Wood turned the meeting over to the new Planning Board Chair, Adam Gauthier.

**ITEM 6.- DISCUSS AND ACCEPT THE MEETING DATE LISTING FOR 2020 – MARCH 2021**

Adam Gauthier introduced for discussion the Planning Board meeting dates for 2020-March 2021 continuing with the tradition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. It was pointed out that the month of December has two meetings planned in the schedule for any Citizen petitions that may come up. The Planning Board schedule is as follows;

May 7, 2020

June 4, 2020

July 2, 2020

August 6, 2020

September 3,

2020 October 1, 2020

November 5, 2020

December 3, 2020

December 17, 2020

January 7, 2021

February 4, 2021

March 4, 2021

Adam Gauthier motioned to accept the Planning Board meeting schedule for 2020-March 2021.

Jim Adams: Second.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried 5-0-0. Clayton Wood – yes, Daren Nielsen – yes, Adam Gauthier – yes, Jim Adams – yes, Ray Ramsey – yes.

**ITEM 7: - SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

Jim Adams said that some of the Planning Board members had probably read the paper and realized that Pittsfield has a new Code Compliance Officer. A lot of people were very upset because they thought the Select Board pushed the previous Code Compliance Officer Jesse Pacheco out, which isn't true. He said that Jesse was a part of a Union and the Board had to make negotiations with that Union by adding three elements under one heading for acceptance with a new position for a 15-20-hour work week. The job was open to anyone and unfortunately, Jesse didn't apply to the new position because his old job was going away. The newly hired Code Compliance Office, Scott LaCroix, will be coming to the Planning and ZBA meetings as COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed. Scott has been a Building Inspector/Code Compliance officer in the town of Canterbury as well as Moultonborough, so he has an amount of experience he will be bringing to the Town. We are hoping that he is going to be what the Town is looking for.

Jim also said that like the Planning Board and everyone else, we are all tip toeing around the new set up of practicing social distancing during meetings and keeping 6' apart with the chairs in the room. He said that if there are more than ten (10) people at a meeting, they have to tell folks that they can stand outside, but so far there hasn't been one meeting yet that they've had ten people at. He said that they had nine (9) one night, but that was it. They have been doing what they need to and are hoping there will be a little relaxation, but as the State numbers continue to climb meetings will have to follow the guidelines. He said that a telecom he was in two days ago said it was because there were so many people that wanted to be tested but couldn't be tested because the State didn't have the kits yet. They don't know if there's a rapid change in COVID-19 or if people have had it all along due to no tests. Of course, everyone is holding their breath waiting for a vaccination, but who knows when that will be. So, in the meantime, the Select Board will continue to have their regular scheduled meetings while following the new protocols.

Clayton Wood asked if the Select Board has any concerns about people being able to pay taxes in June since nobody is working and it doesn't look like most people will be working by the time the tax bill comes.

Jim Adams said that what they are hearing from the Department of Revenue, that the IRS is thinking about pushing April 15<sup>th</sup> tax due date to September 15<sup>th</sup>. It was already pushed back to July 15<sup>th</sup>, but now there are talks of pushing it back further to September. Jim said that what he is hearing is the Department of Revenue is asking communities to not penalize anybody who can't pay. He said that is where they are right now and that it puts Pittsfield in a tough spot because the life blood of our Town comes from property taxes and thankfully a few businesses at this time.

Jim Adams said there was a big fight with the Revenue Administration because the Town is required by law to reevaluate every five years. And what they are going to do is take homes and things that were sold from July until January of last year when the market was doing very well such as people putting their houses up for sale at \$120,000.00 and selling for \$140,000.00. Right now, nobody is selling and they had asked the Revenue Administration if they could somehow put this off and do the reevaluations next year, but they said absolutely not. It's the RSA, it's the statute, and the Town will have to do it this year.

Jim Adams ended by saying that J.C. Allard, the Chairman of the Select Board, had sent a letter to Governor Sununu because as a representative he is on the Governor's telecon every Tuesday. In his letter, J.C. Allard pointed out that with a little town like Pittsfield, having no other revenue sources other than property taxes and a few businesses, it's almost insignificant compared to the \$20,000,000.00 we need from taxes to run the Town. There is relief money that is being fought over right now, whether it will all go to the hospitals, but maybe we will get some of this relief because we are a small town of 4,000 people where maybe half won't be able to pay taxes. Jim Adams said that they are doing everything they can to try to make things come together for the Town during this time.

Adam Gauthier asked Clayton Wood if he would continue to help out running back and forth to the registry. Clayton Wood said that yes, he would be able to continue helping.

**ITEM 8: - MEMBERS' CONCERNS**

Adam Gauthier asked the Board members what they thought about scheduling a Work Session with the other Boards to be able to connect and work together.

Clayton Wood said that if all the Boards met, it would be over the ten (10) person limit but it might be possible to see about just the Chairs of each Board meeting together then coming back to relay to the other members of each Board what was discussed. Clayton said that a lot of people haven't been to meeting in a while but it would be nice to include people from Town at the meetings as well and having just the Chairs of the Boards meeting might make that a possibility. He said if someone has an application then the clock is ticking to hold a meeting to get it taken care of, but that he had cancelled the last meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> after Governor Sununu said that the regular meeting schedules didn't need to be followed at this time.

**ITEM 9. – ADJOURNMENT**

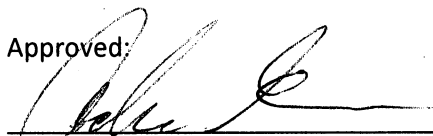
Ray Ramsey motioned to adjourn at 8:03 P.M.

Clayton Wood: Second.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried 5-0-0. Clayton Wood – yes, Daren Nielsen – yes, Adam Gauthier – yes, Jim Adams – yes, Ray Ramsey – yes.

Approved:

  
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Adam Gauthier, Chairman

  
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Date