

# Swarthmore Planning Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date February 17, 2020

Commission Attendees	Chris DeBruyn – Chair, Acting Secretary <del>Steve Minton – Pending Secretary</del> Nancy Templeton Don Jones Douglas Perry	Rex Brien <del>Laura Poltronieri</del> David Virgil James Levine Elizabeth Jenkins
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Also in Attendance Betsy Larsen Borough Council Liason  
~~Jane Billings~~ Borough Manager

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 January meeting of the Planning Commission.
  - Motion was unanimously approved.
- Discussion of Proposed solar power equipment ordinance
  - Elizabeth presented a draft ordinance prepared by Don, Claudia Cueto and herself, and based on the previous discussions.
  - Extended discussion hovered around 2 points:
    - How to make solar as easy as possible (or not)
    - Altering requirements for ground mounted systems versus building mounted systems.
  - Issues:
    - Be careful in the accessory use description to not restrict future technological changes.
    - Exempt solar panels from screening requirements.
    - Do we need a preamble?
    - Language discussing ground mounted systems was considered, and discarded.
    - Does this ordinance apply in all zoning districts? General agreement is that it applies in all Residential zones, and all Commercial zones. No discussion about IN zones.
    - General agreement that the intent is to make it easier to install solar by providing clear direction in the code.

- Extended discussion whether to restrict installation of solar to specific areas if ground mounted.
- Discussion to continue at our next meeting, after additional consultation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Betsy suggested a few potential topics for future planning commission consideration:
  - Review of the existing ordinances for conflicts and inconsistencies.
  - Updating the Town Center zoning to encourage environmental or other goals.

**Next meeting:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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End of Meeting Minutes