

Great Barrington Zoning Board of Appeals

Minutes of Oct. 20, 2016, Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Barrington Fire Station, State Road. Attending were Chairman Ron Majdalany, Vice-Chairman Carolyn Ivory, Michael Wise, John Katz and Don Hagberg. Also **John Tracy**, with Linda Hoddy owner of 224 North Plain Road property that received a special permit in September 2015 for renovations to an existing porch, the addition of a deck and interior work on a kitchen, and his architect Diego Gutierrez and builder Stan VanSant.

The purpose of the meeting was to clarify for the ZBA the wall constructed between the dwelling and garage. Mr. Gutierrez said the wall was always meant to abate traffic noise and was a "trellis garden wall." He said the project was subject to other permits besides the special permit (the property is pre-existing, non-conforming) from the ZBA. The architect said details of the wall construction evolved from the original submission, after consultation with a sound engineering expert and a landscaping professional. Open lattice, he said, wouldn't work. A solid wall is the only way to block noise penetration. The wall, he and Mr. Tracy said, will have vegetation next spring, including climbing hydrangea.

Ms. Ivory said she asked for the meeting as her understanding was the "wall" would be a "slotted trellis garden wall." After brief further discussion, board members expressed their satisfaction the construction was appropriate.

In other business, board members without vote endorsed submission of the 2016 annual report to the Selectboard as drafted. Board members on a motion by Mr. Wise, seconded by Mr. Hagberg and voted unanimously, approved minutes of the Aug. 15, 2016, meeting. Board members also approved unanimously, on a motion by Mr. Wise, seconded by Mr. Katz, executive session minutes from Aug. 5, 2014, Sept. 9, 2015, Feb. 10, 2015, March 10, 2015, Aug. 20, 2015, pertaining to litigation, now resolved, involving Claudia Shapiro/Danny Bell or Lynn Hutchinson/Brian Schwab.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard A. Drew
Recording Secretary

