

**EAST LONGMEADOW ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
MINUTES**

Date: February 10, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: East Longmeadow Library-Community Room  
60 Center Square  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

**MINUTES**

Chair Mark Beglane opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and called the roll.

**CALL THE ROLL:**

Present: Mark Beglane, Chair  
Charles Gray, Vice Chair  
Brian Hill, Clerk  
Francis Dean  
Daniel Plotkin  
James Channing

Staff Present: Constance Brawders, Planning & Community Development Director; Bethany Yeo,  
Planning & Community Development Administrative Assistant

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

January 13, 2020

**Motion to accept the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes made by Board member Daniel Plotkin; second by Clerk Brian Hill and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).**

**CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- 1. Case ZV 2019-07:** A petition for Variance under East Longmeadow By-law Article 5.8 Signs, 5.8(C) for the installation of a LED illuminated sign, and 5.83 Business District 2. Ground Signs a setback requirements for the removal and replacement of an existing ground sign at 642 North Main Street (Assessor's Parcel ID 1-5-1) in a Business zoning district. Applicant/Owner: George Akkouris, 642 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028 (Cont. December 9, 2019).  
***The public hearing for relief from East Longmeadow Zoning By-law Article 5.8 Signs, 5.8(C) for the installation of a LED illuminated sign was continued to January 13, 2020 and again continued to February 10, 2020.***

Petitioner, Mr. George Akkouris and Mrs. Christine Akkouris owners of Redstone Pasta Company located at 642-644 North Main Street, East Longmeadow were present for discussion.

Chair Mark Beglane explained the origin of the East Longmeadow Zoning By-law Article 5.8 Signs, 5.8(C) for the installation of a LED illuminated sign. Board member Daniel Plotkin opined it was an issue of linguistics. Vice Chair Charles Gray stated, he could not reason a hardship for the variance with the material presented.

Discussion ensued concluding with Chair Mark Beglane offering the petitioner two options: to have the Board take a vote and risk appealing the vote or, to request to withdraw his application without prejudice. Despite either decision, the Chair Mark Beglane stated the Zoning Board of Appeals would

work toward amending the language in the East Longmeadow Zoning By-law Article 5.8 Signs, 5.8(C) to reflect the current use of LED illumination in signage. Mr. Akkouris voiced that the Redstone Pasta sign element may be inoperable, as it was designed to illuminate both the electronic message center LED element and Redstone Pasta sign face simultaneously. The Zoning Board of Appeals offered as a compromise that if the sign face for Redstone Pasta could not be illuminated, the applicant could display the date and time on the LED message board, which is allowed under the existing sign by law.

Mr. Akkouris then asked to withdraw his application for **Variance** on a parcel located at 642 - 644 North Main Street without prejudice.

**Motion to close the public hearing made by Clerk Brian Hill; second by Vice Chair Charles Gray and approved by a vote of five (5)-zero (0).**

Based on review of the submitted petition, the Zoning Board of Appeals granted the petitioner's request to **withdraw** his petition for LED illuminated sign without prejudice.

**Motion made by Board member Charles Gray; second by Daniel Plotkin, on a roll call vote of five (5) - zero (0).**

Chair Mark Beglane-Yes  
Francis Dean – Yes

Vice Chair Charles Gray - Yes  
Daniel Plotkin - Yes

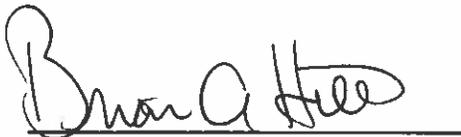
Clerk Brian Hill - Yes

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- 2. Discussion of the ZBA Rules of Procedure  
No discussion of updates to the 1980 Rules of Procedure.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM was approved unanimously.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** March 9, 2020



**Brian Hill, Clerk**



**Date**