

**South Berwick Town Council
Public Hearing
Zoning – Table A
July 11, 2023**

Chair Mallory Cook opened the hearing at 6:35pm. Councilors present included Jeffrey Minihan, John James, Jessica Cyr, and Melissa Costella. Town Manager Tim Pellerin and Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Janelle were also in attendance.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment on the proposed change to the Zoning Ordinance Land Use Table A. The proposed change would allow for municipal buildings in all zones.

-Cliff Cleary, Spillane's Hill, stated that municipal buildings should stay in the center of town.

-Paul Steinhauer, Hill Dr, asked if this was an issue when the Police Station was built. He also commented that it was too early to make this change, (since there have been no decisions regarding town hall).

-Mr. Pellerin explained that staff discussion did start because of town hall, but it was determined that our ordinance does not reference municipal buildings. Municipal buildings include town halls, fire stations, police stations, highway garages, and salt sheds amongst others. Under Home Rule Authority the Town does not need to make this ordinance change; and municipal buildings may be built where the Town deems necessary, such as the Police Station. Staff reviewed all town buildings and proposed the change to the Planning Board and the Board agreed. In an effort for more transparency the consensus was that the Town should adhere to the same ordinances we require our residents to adhere to.

-Tamre Steinhauer, Hill Dr, asked if there is a plan to review all ordinances. Mr. Pellerin stated "yes, but there is a financial cost and was not budgeted."

-Mrs. Costella stated that it was good to learn about Home Rule, she was not aware of it. She asked if we are a business, municipal buildings stay in the business zones.

No one on zoom wished to comment.

The hearing was closed at 6:34pm.

Attest:

Barbara Bennett, CCM