DEPT./BOARD: Planning Board/Short Term Rental Subcommittee

DATE: 11/12/19

TIME: 7-8pm

PLACE: Town Hall Annex Meeting Room B

Agenda to follow
Planning Board/Short-Term Rental Subcommittee

Minutes from 11/12/2019 meeting

Town Hall Annex Meeting Room B

7-7:30pm

Attendees: Planning Board Member Clerk Mike Espejo, ZBRC Chairman Shari Ellis, Board of Selectmen Chairman Joe Morandi

1) Members discussed an example of a town prohibiting short-term rentals (STRs). Lynnfield was mentioned as an example. After an incident at a party at an Airbnb rental, Lynnfield amended their laws to outright ban any property owner from renting out his/her home for less than 30 days.

2) Members discussed the lack of a zoning enforcement officer and how this asset would help in enforcing any zoning change. It was brought up that there are no current plans for a zoning enforcement officer for Burlington. It was mentioned that going through the entire process of amending the bylaw to regulate STRs and not have the assets to enforce said changes would be a waste of time.

3) Members questioned the need for even allowing STRs in town. They only real benefit is to residents who rent out their properties for financial gain. There is no other benefit to the town or its residents to allow STRs.

4) Members discussed if the voters in town should be polled to get their opinion on STRs in town. Different ways to poll the residents were discussed. Ms. Ellis is going to check with the Town Clerk to find out the best way to do this.

5) Next step for the committee is to go back to the Planning Board and ZBRC and poll the members to see if they want to regulate STRs or to change the bylaw to prohibit short-term rentals completely.

Minutes submitted by: Mike Espejo