

WELCOME

Are you here for a Planning Board Meeting?

The Planning Board is responsible for creating and implementing the Spencer Master Plan, which lays out the way the town wishes to grow and develop. The Planning Board is also responsible for reviewing and approving all subdivisions in the town, thus ensuring appropriate design of roadways, Stormwater drainage systems, utilities, neighborhood parks, and other open space areas.

Why did I receive a notice?

An applicant has filed an application for a Special Permit, Site Plan Review, or Stormwater Permit. Notification is mailed to all Parties of Interest. Parties of interest, as defined under Massachusetts General Law, shall mean: the petitioner, abutters, owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the petitioner as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list (notwithstanding that the land of any such owner is located in another city or town), and the planning board of every abutting town. The Planning Board will make a decision based on commentary received at the meeting and what is allowed under Spencer Zoning Bylaws.

What happens at the meeting?

The Chair will open the public meeting, and then will open the public hearings. Applicants/owners will have a chance to present and discuss their application with Planning Board members. After the Planning Board deliberates, the Chair will open the meeting up to the Public for questions and comments.

Public Participation

All members of the Public may attend the open session of any public meeting. Members of the Public may not address the Planning Board without permission of the Chair, or otherwise disrupt meetings. Members of the Public may make audio or video recordings of open sessions upon prior notification to the Chair, and subject to reasonable requirements. The Chair must inform attendees of any recordings being made by the Public at the beginning of the public meeting. If a member of the Public continues to disrupt a meeting after clear warning from the Chair, the Chair may order the person to leave the meeting. If the person does not leave, the Chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove that person.

What happens if I don't agree with how the board votes?

As a Party of Interest, you will be notified of the decision of the Board in compliance with Mass General Law, Chapter 40A, Sec 9. The decision must be appealed at Superior Court, Land Court, or District Court, depending on the type of application. An appeal must be filed within 20 days after the decision has been filed with the Town Clerk and must include the notice of the action and a copy of the complaint.