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WARREN PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
ZONING BYLAW CHANGES

The Warren Planning Board will hold a public informational meeting on three proposed zoning changes for possible action by Town Meeting. The informational meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 6:45 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Warren. The purpose of the meeting is to hear comments and suggestions from residents before finalizing the proposals.

The first item concerns dimensional changes in the Village District, which includes Warren Center and West Warren. When Warren adopted zoning in 1984, the Bylaw established a minimum lot area of 15,000 square feet and minimum frontage of 100' for single family homes. Residences must be set back 30 feet from the road and 15 feet from side and rear lot lines. However, a large number of lots do not conform to these requirements. The Planning Board is considering changing these requirements to enable more lots to come into conformance with the Bylaw. The Board wishes to hear from residents about what new standards would be reasonable for the Village district.

The second change would allow Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers for individuals that have a debilitating medical condition. The proposed amendment would allow such facilities by grant of a special permit of the Planning Board in the Mill Conversion Overlay District in West Warren. The bylaw would establish a buffer distance from parks, churches, schools, and child care facilities, and it would include standards to minimize impacts on the community.

The third change would amend the Mill Conversion Overlay District map to include the Hardwick Knitted Fabrics property in West Warren. The purpose of the district is to encourage redevelopment of old mills by allowing a broad mix of land uses, such as multi-family residential, retail, commercial services, offices, industry, art studios, and museums. The owner would like to include the property in the district in order to enhance the development potential of the property.

Interested parties can more information about the proposed changes by contacting the Planning Office at 413-436-5701, ext. 260.

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Nancy Lowell