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Town of Lexington

Noise Advisory Committee (NAC)

Minutes of Meeting, June 2, 2022

A meeting of the Noise Advisory Committee (“NAC”) was held via Zoom videoconference on Thursday June 2, 2022, at 7:00 PM. A quorum of three members was present.

NAC Members Present: Dan Koretz (Chair), Vicki Blier, Nick Afshartous

Absent: Stewart Smith, Joe Campbell

Others Present: Mark Sandeen (Select Board)

1. Introductory Remarks

Dan convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

2. Committee Business

The Committee discussed possible revisions to Section 80, the noise section of the Lexington bylaws. The Committee focused on general issues and decided to leave specific details about each of them for later meetings. The Committee reached the following tentative decisions, which will be put to the full Committee for a vote at the next Committee.

- a. Relevant provisions can be found in the noise bylaws and ordinances of many other communities, and the Committee should use or adapt those that are deemed appropriate.
- b. The noise bylaw should have “not to exceed” limits to complement the incremental limits in the current bylaw.
- c. The noise bylaw should have different not to exceed limits for day and night.
- d. The noise bylaw should pair specific quantitative limits with a “reasonable person” standard to make daily enforcement feasible.
- e. The Committee was uncertain whether differentiating noise limits by zone or area is feasible in Lexington because of the lack of separation between residential and non-residential areas. The Committee will return to this and to the related question of whether to modify standards for areas adjacent to loud noise sources, such as highways and the Hanscom flight paths.
- f. The new bylaw should include more detailed definitions as needed to make new provisions defensible.

- g. To the extent feasible, the new bylaw should include restrictions on specific noise sources to make enforcement less burdensome. These might include specific noise limits for specific sources (such as are included in the MOU for the new Takada Hayden Ave. development), requirements for noise mitigation (such as the requirements in the current bylaw for some construction activities), or prohibitions on specific activities (such as the prohibition on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers during the summer and the pending phase-out of all use).
- h. The Committee postponed discussion of technical issues, such as the choice of noise metrics and how to deal with tonal and time-varying noise, for later meetings.
- i. Dan suggested that once we have more specific decisions, we examine the ordinances from other jurisdictions that we have collected to find illustrative provisions. Vicki suggested that the Great Neck ordinance is particularly well crafted and suggested that Committee members review it before the next meeting.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.