

From: ROBERT S. THURSTON <rthurston@appeallaw.com>
> Date: Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 4:54 PM
> Subject: 4/22/20 zoning board meeting -- application for a sports
> field
> To: <ahgoins@gmail.com>

Dear Amy:

I live in a condominium community consisting of 140 units, all containing senior citizens. As you know, we are currently experiencing a worldwide pandemic in which seniors are particularly vulnerable. Last Thursday all 140 unit owners were subject to personal service, by certified mail -- requiring the signature of each resident -- needlessly subjecting each senior owner to unnecessary potential exposure to the virus. The concern that this has raised is immense. It is not clear to me why the application for a sports field could not be delayed a month or two so as not to involve this kind of conduct during a period of rapid spread. The Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court has ordered that the courts are only open for emergency and essential matters. Does this petition qualify as an "essential matter" so as to condone this conduct? I have no idea if there is anything objectionable to this application. However, the timing and manner of the bringing of the application is highly questionable. The service of all these abutting seniors makes them "aggrieved parties" pursuant to Town Ordinance. Executive Order 20-05 provides that the Town "shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means." Even given the Town's utilization of Zoom technology for the participation of the public, it is not clear to me how the Town can "ensure" that all the aggrieved parties will be able to participate. Consequently, as an aggrieved party, I would ask that this non-essential matter be continued until after the Governor's stay-at-home order is lifted, so as to ensure party participation and to promote transparency and fairness.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Thurston
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South Kingstown, RI