

**TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND
PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
Weds., Feb. 6, 2019
Groveton PD/Ambulance Bldg. - Meeting Room
Groveton, NH
7:00 P.M.**

Board members present: Al Rossetto, Addy Hall, Jeffery St. Cyr, Jesse Hern, J. Weagle
Others present: Elaine Gray, Rebecca St. Cyr – Recorder

Acting Chairman, J. Weagle opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

1. MINUTES of Jan. 2, 2019 Meeting

Motion to approve the Jan. 2, 2019 minutes by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Hern, All in Favor 5-0

2. Sample Ballot & Zoning Amendment Question for March 12

E. Gray presented a sample of the ballot for the Annual Town Election for March 12, 2019. Below is Article 3 as written on the ballot. It requires a yes or no vote.

Article 3: Are you in favor of adopting an amendment to the Town Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Town Planning Board, to insert new language in Section 4.17 Small Wind Energy Systems which would exempt those systems with a height of 40 ft. or less from the regulations of the site plan review and conditional use permit?

3. Master Plan Update

J. Weagle asked the Board if they received a copy of “Creating a Master Plan for your Community” from Robin. He also has looked at a couple of master plans from other communities. Robin Irving had sent an email in June to the Planning Board, advising that it’s time for an update of the Master Plan. A. Rossetto questioned if the Town wants to spend \$25,000 to recreate a product that some volunteers had previously done? J. Hern asked if she (Robin) indicated what needs to be changed. J. Weagle said Irving has indicated that she will offer guidance but is trying to steer away from it. He said there is no reason why, as a Board, that we can’t do this. Weagle is looking at other communities that are similar to see what needs to be in it. He said there needs to be more data added.

Weagle said NCC came to the Town with a Scope of Work Draft, dated 9/5/18 for a Master Plan Update. When they came up with the cost, Weagle felt that we couldn’t do it. E. Gray asked what the dues pay for. Weagle said the dues give us a small discount, but it gives us the option of contacting NCC if we have questions. They will give guidance for free, but if they are doing a planned project, it would be contracted and we would pay. Weagle said we paid the dues for 2019. A. Hall was concerned about what NCC can or will do for us? J. Weagle said we got away from NCC because they weren’t able to help; now, they have restructured, so we are trying them again.

A. Rossetto suggested putting the current Master Plan before the Board at the next meeting and delegate sections of it to each Planning Board member to review and come up with the steps needed to update it, and then we are working on it. J. Hern commented that we haven't talked about doing an update until Robin Irving brought it forward. J. Weagle said it's supposed to be updated every 5 years; he said it's helpful when applying for grants, etc. In his years of service, on the Planning Board, he hasn't seen a business ask for a copy. However, they have asked what the Emergency Services are (police, fire, ambulance).

Weagle said that Irving doesn't want to be involved in the update; she hasn't given us any feedback as to exactly what "she" is looking for. If she doesn't want to attend a meeting then the Board requested she sends them something in writing with direction. A. Rossetto was involved with the last update and reviewed the process the volunteers went through.

Motion that the Planning Board is waiting for Robin Irving to send them information on areas of the Master Plan that are in critical need of updating before proceeding by: Al Rossetto
2nd by: A. Hall, All in Favor 5-0

4. Rotobec USA Job Fair Dates

Rotobec is holding a job fair - March 1st and 2nd – 8:00 am – 7:00 pm – at the Town Meeting Room. This is a Friday & Saturday. They are looking for welders, painters, etc.

Their driveway permit was provided to the Board; it sounds like they will need to jump through hoops for the expansion. J. Weagle said after Town Meeting it might be ok. When the water is put in they will need to excavate across the road and will need a permit for that.

Discussion ensued regarding the road. A. Rossetto gave a summary of a recent meeting with DOT about Brown Rd. and Church St. He understands the south end of Brown Rd. will get the first mile upgraded to year-round specs and then the Town would take that section over.

The State is going to upgrade Brown Rd. to Craggy Rd., over the summer they plan to do from the last house, to Craggy Rd. This year they will do a sandwich, by compacting 8"-12" of gravel on top of the current road and then paving. Rossetto further discussed concerns with doing that. Next year, they would do the first section of Brown Rd. from Route 3 to where the pines are (where they're starting this year). The Board further discussed the proposed upgrades. J. Weagle commented if the State decides to give the Brown Road to the Town, the Town has to take it.

5. Any Other Business to Come Before the Board

J. Weagle said Larry Bennett bought the Roland Normandeau property on Central Avenue. He wants to gut the house, turn into a work shop and then merge the lots. There can't be 2 houses on the same lot. He doesn't want to pay the demand fee for the water because he's not going to use it. It's zoned residential. J. Weagle will look into it further to see if it can be done. J. Hern said it can be discussed, but we need more information. Bennett doesn't want to tear the house down and will pay the taxes.

Motion to adjourn by: A. Rossetto
2nd by: J. Hern, All in Favor 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.