

TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND PLANNING BOARD Minutes

Weds., August 2, 2023

Groveton PD/Ambulance Bldg. - Meeting Room

10 Station Square

Groveton, NH

6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Al Rossetto, Sean Durkin, Nicole Canavan, Ryan Shannon

Others present: Liz Ball, Rebecca St Cyr-Minute Taker

1. MINUTES of the July 12, 2023 Meeting – postponed from July 5, 2023.

Motion to approve the July 12, 2023 minutes by: S. Durkin

2nd by: N. Canavan, All in Favor 4-0

2. Master Plan Discussion

Al said after talking with Jim, Liz, and Tammy Letson, we won't be rewriting the plan it will just be updating. The survey results, Jim has been working on the multiple choice questions. Due to Jim being out, we will need to break out the results to Board members. Next month will be working on that.

With the survey's and the members of the Board, we need to have a discussion of what the citizens and the Board feel the Town should be focused on looking into the future. Economic development, quality of life, what do we need to make the Town more appealing. The census needs to be updated in the Plan from 2010 to the newest one in 2020.

Al said Liz is willing to help; and he asked Nicole to look at the census data and previous master plan. He asked Sean if he could help with the Survey questions by getting them into a spread sheet. Jim has set them up in a spread sheet format.

Everyone seems to be interested in the employment / economic status with Q Hydrogen, Rotobec, we need to delineate what they have brought to the

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Town and what their potential is for growth. Al had a quick tour of Q Hydrogen, it's really impressive. They are not running yet; he is cautiously optimistic. Prima America has been saying soon for over a decade; he hasn't been up there for a while and isn't sure what's going on with them. Al said they have the technology to take waste plastics and break them down to smaller carbon molecules to make diesel fuel and kerosene. They have produced some, which is a low sulfur diesel fuel. They have a huge possibility. He understands that when it's working it can be anywhere that has a stream of waste plastic.

Capital Improvement Planning needs to be included in the Master Plan as well. The Town, Precinct and School give us what they anticipate for expenditures over \$50,000 over the next several years. For example, a Police Cruiser; fire equipment, the lagoons, and the additional well that's needed. These type of items need to be in the plan. He researched and by RSA the Planning Board can make all the departments participate. The Master Plan is needed for the Town to be able to get grants and other government programs. Sean asked about the Capital Improvement Plan – is there a way that we can get the Fire Dept, EMS, PD, etc. to get us a schedule every 5 years, so that we can look at it to put money away yearly. Al said that's what the committee would be doing for the Master Plan. We were stone walled by the school system and Precinct in the past.

Sean asked without a superintendent for the school – who do we go to? The School Board? Al said he understands it's not the Planning Board that would be doing the Capital Improvement Plan, it would be a committee composed of Selectmen and citizens. There is no commitment but is just the best estimate of what is anticipated over the next 5 years. In the past, the Precinct and School would not talk to us; but it makes sense. He is open to anything else that needs to be in the Master Plan.

Ryan asked about the committee; Al said it doesn't exist right now; Ryan asked when will it exist and why do we need it? Nicole commented to get people there. Al said it needs to be stated in the Master Plan. Ryan doesn't feel that we need to create a committee; why doesn't the Selectmen do it and it will be in the Master Plan. We shouldn't have to keep forming committees. Al said that's how it was constituted previously. Ryan said the Selectmen need to stop delegating and start doing their job. Al said it's something that needs to be done and the Planning Board needs to bring it forward to be addressed. Our job (by law) is to do the Master Plan.

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Sean said they (departments) should have a pretty good idea of what is going to be needed over the next 5-7 years. Al said we are missing the school information; the selectmen have no control over the School Board.

Al said this is what the Planning Board needs to focus on for the Master Plan: the survey summary, economic status, and census data and verbiage about a Capital Improvement Plan. Ryan said our job is to get it updated – we meet our deadline. Sean asked if there is anything Jim Weagle can give us to keep working on this, we are running out of time. Liz said she can get the information from him and then each Planning Board member can take and work on a chunk of it. She will send the information out via email to everyone. Jim has been working on it for approx. 3 months. The Board further discussed getting out the surveys for review. Ryan suggested working on them at the September meeting. Discussion ensued about having an extra meeting. Liz recommended seeing where Jim is at and then she will send out an email, so we can come up with a plan.

3. Any Other Business To Come Before the Board

Ryan asked Liz to check on an RSA for a Capital Improvement Committee to see if it's a requirement.

Ryan asked if there was any news on the mill property. Nicole has been on vacation, but she has been in contact with Alex.

No further business was discussed.

Motion to adjourn by: N. Canavan
2nd by: S. Durkin, All in Favor 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Next meeting: September 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St Cyr
Minute Taker

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Minutes approved by Northumberland Planning Board Members on _____

X
Al Rossetto
Northumberland Planning Board Chair

X
Sean Durkin
Northumberland Planning Board Member

X
Ryan Shannon
Northumberland Planning Board Member

X
Nicole Canavan
Northumberland Planning Board Member

X
Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Rep

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