

TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND PLANNING BOARD AGENDA

Weds., November 8, 2023

Groveton PD/Ambulance Bldg. - Meeting Room

10 Station Square

Groveton, NH

6:00 P.M.

NOTE MEETING DATE CHANGE

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

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

Chairman, Al Rossetto opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

1. MINUTES of the October 4, 2023 Meeting

Motion to approve by: S. Durkin, 2nd by: R. Shannon, All in Favor 4-0

2. Master Plan Discussion -

Ryan presented his summary - #1 – Leadership – w/o leadership, you can't run anything. A town has to be run like a business; #2 – industry/light industry – getting more business into town. He will email to Liz; she will send it out to all to review all of the info - #1 - #5 He chose from the survey 5 items that he thought would better the Town. Al briefly reviewed his information.

Al asked Liz if we have information from all departments. She is missing the School. J. Weagle said the School Board hasn't met since our last meeting. They meet on 11/14 at 5:30 pm. Sean feels the Planning Board members should plan to go to express concern that we haven't received information from them. Jim will email Jo to have it put the Planning Board on their agenda.

Al said he and Gail worked up the community attitude survey, which is a summary of the community surveys, which summarizes what Sean has done. He would like to have a draft ready for the next meeting in December. And then finalize and vote on it in January.

Al asked Liz if she has seen anything from Tammy on the CIP? Liz said she's working on it but isn't finished yet. Al commented there is a State RSA to put a CIP together, it needs to be in the Master Plan before the Planning Board can

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institute. Ryan has researched and we already have one; the Planning Board's responsibility is part of this. For example, how did we get approval for Police Cruisers, we had to make a plan for it. We've already done it and you don't realize it; we received from the Dept Heads what's needed over the next 10 years. Al said to make it work the Master Plan has to call out the need for a CIP.

Al feels we need to concentrate on getting the Master Plan done. When we sign off on it, it will be good for 10 years. Jim said since the mill went down we have gone more towards more planning ahead. He said when it was running; and we went to Town Meeting for funds it was shot down. Ryan said the CIP is a big part of the Master Plan. Jim commented if we get a CIP into the Master Plan, it will be the first time ever.

Al talked about the new cruiser; Peter said it's been put on hold, he's not sure why. Al discussed the current cruisers and a grant that was applied for. Ryan said it needs to be forced and hold them accountable for it.

Sean said a CIP to him is a vision for the Town of how you want to change and a schedule to make the changes. He thinks that what the Town needs to cut back on everything that we don't need to do and focus on rebuilding the Town to bring people here. Al gave an example: the infrastructure for the streets needs to be improved. Old Village Rd.; it used to be a rollercoaster. Money was set aside, and Glenn did half of it this year; the other section will be done next year. That is a form of a CIP plan.

Sean thinks we need to focus the priorities of what going to be improved that will bring people in and businesses. Nicole thought that's what it was for – this is what we want it to look like. Once we have that it can be broke into smaller pieces to achieve that goal. When we as the Town invest in ourselves as the Town that's when the business come. Nicole discussed Claremont.

Jim said we did that. We put in a huge W/S project. When the co-gen plant becomes operational, that will help bring in other businesses. It will cut the energy costs, which is a big thing. Jim discussed Bombardier case. Sean discussed the railroad and monies they were to receive for improvements.

Al commented this town has had opportunities to grow and for whatever reason it hasn't. We need to get the Master Plan together and then as time allows we will work on the CIP. Al takes responsibility for not rushing into it; he, his wife and Liz has put a lot of time into it. Jim said most of the time towns will hire out to have their Master Plan done.

Sean commented with the tax assessments who's going to want to come in. Nicole said couldn't we give them a tax abatement. Jim said for new construction. Ryan said in Berlin they set up 10 years with no taxes. Jim reminded they have other programs to cover it; it's not free. There is no

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incentive to come here. Al said we have the gas line, Jim said that's our biggest commodity.

For the next meeting in December, Al will work with Liz and Tammy (CIP) to get a draft ready.

Discussed the school – Liz said what is in the old Master Plan is what they put in during the last update; she asked them to update that. Sean asked if we could make our own forecast. Liz said she has sent the information to Jo three times. Al asked for a copy of what they had done previously. He asked if the School Board has the authority to tell the administration to do this? He plans to make a motion to have them get this done before the next meeting.

Al will work on reviewing and putting a draft together.

3. Zoning Ordinance Amendment Discussion

Liz – as a Planning Board, we are in charge of updating the Zoning Ordinance.

There is a section in the ordinance that states that we allow campgrounds. There isn't anything in the ordinance that describes what a campground consists of. And there isn't anything that describes camps. Jim said we tried to use Lancaster as an example, but there isn't anything in their ordinance. Ryan asked what kind are we talking about. Jim said about campgrounds. Nicole said why don't we determine what it is? Sean suggested reviewing what the State has. Liz said that's what she and Al discussed, but it's a very gray area. Al said a campground is 10 or more sites for tent, rv's, campers, etc. A site consists of an area to set a tent, rv or camper, it talks about sewage as well. Jim said the State lets the towns determine what is needed. Sean suggested that Liz email the RSA out to everyone.

Al asked when the deadline is for warrants, public hearings, zoning amendments, etc. The first week in February is the drop dead date. Jim said if we put too much on the ballot it gets confusing for voters.

4. Capital Improvement Plan Discussion – see discussion above.

5. Budget Discussion –

Liz asked the Board if they want to change anything.

<u>2023</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	
PB Minutes	\$1188	\$ 925	
Training and tuition	\$250		0

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Advertising	\$1000	\$24; in 2022 we spend \$198.00
PB Postage	\$1500	0
Building Inspector	\$1200	0 – hasn't been paid yet.
Zoning BD minutes	\$300	\$100
Zoning Advertisement	\$200	0
Zoning Bd postage	\$250	\$9
Total budget 2023 - \$5,088		\$1057 to date

Motion to approve the budget #'s at the same level as last year by: S. Durkin
 2nd by: N. Canavan, All in Favor 4-0

6. Any Other Business To Come Before the Board

Al – before the meeting next month, he would like everything together and sent out at least a week prior so everyone can review before the meeting. Then a draft will be put together in December so we can vote on it at the January meeting.

Liz was doing some digging and found the Town Meeting minutes from March 2008. In there was an article:

Article 36: To see if the Town, having a Master Plan adopted by the Planning Board on May 6, 1991 and amended on August 6, 2003, will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a capital improvement program committee, which shall include at least one member of the Planning Board and may include but not limited to other members of the Planning Board or the Board of Selectmen to prepare and amend a recommended program for municipal capital improvements projected over a period of at least 6 years, in accordance with RSA 674:5 (No Tax impact)

Motion made by Robert Larson and seconded by Lorna Aldrich to accept article as read.

No further discussion, Voice vote. Article 36 passed as read.

Jim said we tried to form a committee and we had one meeting and no one came so it was dropped. Jim further discussed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm

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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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