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REPORT OF THE ANTRIM PLANNING BOARD + 1983

The activities of the Planning Board in 1983 were enlivened by a change in the Zoning Ordinance required by the revised State statute on "manufactured housing." Aside from that, the Planning Board had a rather quiet year. At the 20 meetings, six public hearings were held on subdivision applications that received approval. One boundary adjustment was accepted and one annexation was approved.

The Annual Report for 1982 outlined the zoning change to permit "mobile home subdivisions." On the ballot at the annual Town election, there were two proposals. The one supported by the Planning Board gave precise specifications and limitations for mobile home subdivisions to be permitted in any of the five zoning districts. The amendment offered by petition would permit "mobile homes or trailers" in any district subject only to the same requirements as "dwelling units built entirely on site." Since the issues were fairly complex, the Planning board wrote letters which were published in the three local weekly papers, explaining the Board's stand and the differences between the proposals. Board members were on hand outside the voting place on March 8, 1983, to inform the citizenry about the proposals. The Board's amendment was approved 234 to 153. The petitioner's proposal was rejected 261 to 137. This was interpreted as a strong vote of confidence in the Planning Board.

At the same election, a minor change in the Zoning Ordinance was approved 325 to 69. It reduced from two years to one year the period during which an owner must remove fire or other ruins from his or her property.

Several interesting cases arose on the interpretation of the Antrim Zoning Ordinance and of relevant State Zoning and Planning statutes. One that may have to be clarified in the next revision of the Town Ordinance concerns instances when a landowner's property straddles zoning district boundaries. Court rulings and legal interpretations of such situations have not been explicit.

Good progress on the Master Plan for Antrim was made during the year. Drafts of four chapters were submitted to the Planning Board for their comments. A fifth chapter is nearly complete. Three more will be drafted early in 1984. A recent revision of the State statutes requires all towns to have a Master Plan approved by January 1, 1986. Therefore Antrim's plan must be ready for review by the Town's voters at the 1985 Town Meeting.

The make-up of the Planning Board was constant during 1983 - seven regular members, two alternates. Attendance at the 20 meetings was excellent.

James T. Dennison, Ch.
Harvey Goodwin, Vice.Ch
Katherine Wasserloos, Sec.
John Jones, Selectman
(ex officio)

Bruce Kierstead
Robert Watterson
Rodman Zwirner
Rachel Reinstein, Alt.
William MacCulloch, Alt.