

ANTRIM PLANNING BOARD

March 20, 2001 Meeting

Members present:

Fred Anderson
Bob Bethel
Dave Penny
Ed Rowehl
Peter Beblowski
Bill Prokop

Members Absent:

Denise Dargie
Spencer Garrett
Mary Wardman

Attendees:

Carol Olgivie, SWRPC

Chairman Rowehl called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He stated that the first meeting following Town elections was an organizational meeting and the first order of business was to elect a chairman of the Board. Mr. Beblowski nominated Mr. Rowehl for the position of chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prokop and unanimously passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Rowehl then noted that the By Laws of the Planning Board called for the election of a vice chairman if the Board deemed it to be necessary. After some discussion Mr. Beblowski nominated Mr. Anderson for the position of vice chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prokop and unanimously passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Rowehl asked for approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2001 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Beblowski, seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Rowehl brought up the matter of possibly reprinting the Zoning Ordinance Manual to incorporate recent ordinance changes adopted at the March Town meeting. There is no master copy in town offices in a format that can be readily updated. Mr. Penny asked Ms. Olgivie if SWRPC had the manual on a disc or in a format that could be edited and reproduced. Ms. Olgivie said they did not have anything. The Secretary stated that at this time he was planning to retype the document but it would be time consuming and costly. Mr. Penny asked if there was money in the budget for such a project. The Secretary said that money had been put in the budget for printing new manuals but not for retyping it. Mr. Penny suggested that we find someone who could scan the existing document into Microsoft® Word which could be easily updated and copies made as required. The Secretary was directed to find a means of having the document scanned and associated costs and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Rowehl then reviewed the results of the voting on the proposed ordinance changes at the Town meeting. He noted how the wording of an ordinance change was critical and used the defeat of the

ordinance for oversized signs by special exception as an example of the need to carefully craft an ordinance change. The Secretary then directed the members attention to a list of fourteen (14) proposed ordinance changes to be considered during the year 2001 and suggested that the Board start work on them early in the year rather than wait until the end of the year.

Following of review of correspondence and upcoming meetings, Mr. Rowehl stated that the next order of business was to discuss the status of the Master Plan. Mr. Prokop stated that he has been reviewing and working on the Master Plan for the past month and in his opinion he would not like to see the Master Plan presented to the Townspeople in its present form. He felt a lot of information was misleading and incomplete and the Plan did not really reflect the direction the town wished to go in. He then gave information he had recently obtained from department heads and school officials which differed from information in the current Plan. Mr. Prokop strongly recommended that the Board consider spending more effort on the plan to have it reflect the desires of the town. Mr. Rowehl gave some history of how the plan evolved but commented that he also wished the plan to be accurate. Mr. Beblowski added that he would also like the plan to be more realistic of what exists and where we should go. There followed some more general discussion of portions of the plan such as the Fire Department, the Police Department, the schools and the like. The Secretary pointed out that the budget provided to pay SWRPC to prepare the plan had been used up and asked Ms. Olgivie what effect there would be to incorporate the changes suggested by Mr. Prokop. Ms. Olgivie stated there was not any more money in the budget for her to spend any more time on developing the plan and additional work sessions. But if the Board were to provide her with finished copy she should would put it into a final format without any additional cost.

Following some more discussion it was agreed that the Secretary would obtain the latest copy of the Master Plan on a disc from SWRPC. Mr. Penny would then use the disc in his laptop computer so that changes could be made "on the spot" at Board meetings. The disc of the final Plan could then be given to SWRPC for final formatting.

It was then decided that the Public Hearing portion of the April 17th meeting be cancelled and the meeting be used as a Master Plan work session. Mr. Beblowski moved that the Board meeting for April 10th which had previously been cancelled be reinstated as a Master Plan work session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson and passed unanimously on a voice vote. The Secretary asked if any of the members required copies of the latest version of the Master Plan. Messrs. Bethel, Anderson and Penny said they did.

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Beblowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Penny and passed on a voice vote. Mr. Rowehl adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul L. Vasques, Secretary
Antrim Planning Board