

Planning Board

November 6, 2014

Members Present: Chair Ernie Allain, Greg Estrella, Aline Boucher, Tom McCue, Mark Evans, Ex-Officio member Lucie Remillard, and Alternate Members Richard Cassidy and John White

Excused: Lori Langlois, Sue Tremblay and Martha Creegan

Others Present: Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun; Pamela Laflamme, Community Development Director

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of the October Minutes

Ms. Remillard moved with a second from Ms. Boucher to approve the October minutes as presented. So moved, the motion carried.

Ms. Laflamme passed out information about the State's broadband project to the board and pointed out that the schedule of meetings for 2015 was in everyone's agenda packet.

Project Updates:

Route 110: Ms. Laflamme discussed the newly opened Route 110 realigned roadway and asked the board for feedback. There was a lot of discussion about signage and other safety concerns, but many agreed that with time these issues would go away as people become used to the new layout. Mr. McCue pointed out that there is definitely the potential for conflicts at the intersection of the new road and Hillside Avenue as well as the stopping distance between the sign and the railroad crossing. That will be monitored and staff has made DOT aware of the concerns already.

Ms. Laflamme discussed the new layout and how it has affected addressing. This will also be presented to the City Council. The board considered how people from outside of the community navigate around the streets with many signs missing and several segments of street along the contiguous road, but it would be a large undertaking for the Council to move the issue forward at this time. The areas around Green Street and the section of street formerly known as First Avenue will need to be addressed immediately to prevent confusion.

Moving Downtown Forward: Ms. Laflamme indicated the welcome sign and street sign projects were on hold for winter and would be implemented next summer. The focus of the

Main Street Program is currently on the winter events and economic development projects downtown.

Route 16 Rehabilitation Project: As this project gets underway, HEB will be assembling a stakeholder group to meet two or three times to provide input into the project. Mr. Allain and Mr. Evans are both interested in participating in the project.

Jericho Power LLC: Ms. Laflamme explained the current status of the project and updated the board about the latest hearing related to the financing with the Governor and Council. The blasting for the project has been heard several times in the City prompting questions about where it was coming from, but the road for the project is currently being constructed. The size of turbines dictates a very large road to bring them to the landing sites.

North Country Council Scenic Byways Project: North Country Council held an inventory collection meeting in Berlin recently to obtain feedback on what the community feels are important historic and cultural landmarks for visitors driving the Woodlands Heritage Trail to visit. The board reviewed and cataloged significant sites which will be sent to North Country Council for inclusion on the trail map.

Other: None

Public Comments: None

Member Comments: Mr. Cassidy mentioned the work of the group focused on restoring the Nansen Ski Club. Work will begin in the spring and continue as money allows.

Mr. McCue mentioned he is still interested in serving as a representative to North Country Council. Ms. Creegan is still listed as a representative but asked to be removed a few months ago. Ms. Laflamme will take care of updating the list.

Adjournment

Mr. Evans moved to adjourn; Ms. Remillard seconded and the motion carried with all members voting in the affirmative.