

Planning Board

July 7, 2015

Present were: Chair Ernie Allain, Regular Members: Greg Estrella, Mark Evans, Martha Creegan, Tom McCue; Ex-Officio Members Lucie Remillard, Sue Tremblay; Alternate Members Richard Cassidy and John White; Aline Boucher and Lori Langlois were excused

Public Comments – there were no comments

May Minutes - Ms. Remillard moved to approve minutes from the May meeting; Mr. McCue seconded and the motion carried.

June Minutes - Ms. Creegan moved to approve minutes from the June meeting; Mr. McCue seconded and the motion carried.

Lot Merger

Louis & Gloria Bacon applied to merge Map 125 Lot 63 and Map 125 Lot 64 at 31 Dustin Street. Ms. Laflamme reported that there are no issues with merging the lots. Ms. Remillard moved to approve the lot merger; Mr. Estrella seconded and all voted in favor.

Gary & Bonnie Mortensen applied to merge Map 135 Lot 175; Map 135, Lot 174.000030 and Map 135, Lot 174 at 250 Bridge Street. The merger would occur over a paper street. The Mortensen's are consolidating properties. Mr. McCue confirmed that there is no reference to right of way in neighboring deeds. Ms. Remillard moved to approve the merger; Mr. McCue seconded and the motion carried.

Coos County Zoning Board of Adjustment

Ms. Laflamme reported that she received a letter from the Coos County Zoning Board of Adjustment seeking members. Mr. McCue stated that given the surge of activity with the Balsams project moving forward through Planning, the ZBA should be established. Mr. Allain and Mr. Evans expressed interest, more information will be obtained for them.

Master Plan - discussion postponed

Project Updates

The Food Coop Feasibility Study is underway. The consultant was in Berlin in June and visited WREN and the Littleton Farmer's Market and other markets/grocery stores in the North Country. He is working on the feasibility study which will include a narrative as well.

Bartlett School has a new roof and the interior is looking good; TKB is aiming to be done by fall.

Route 110 Landscaping is ongoing. There was a miscommunication where items agreed to were not incorporated into the final design such as putting in pear trees which are not meant to grow here. There is also on street parking that needs to be addressed. Historic mitigation will take place with benches, a granite sign depicting “The Avenues”, and historic street signage. There will also be historic markers about the Avenues.

Ms. Laflamme reported that she and the City Manager saw firsthand how traffic was stacking at the intersection of Hillside Avenue and Wight Street at the train tracks. There was a bus stopped on the tracks and a traffic jam. The intersection will need to be reviewed. Ms. Remillard added that there needs to be crossing guard there when school is in session. Traffic speed on the new section of Route 110 was also discussed.

Hutchins Street Ms. Laflamme stated that though the construction is municipally managed, DOT has oversight and they are providing input which will likely push the project into 2017.

Heritage Park The city is purchasing the park for \$75,000. Rather than have TCCAP put the park up for sale, the city is making the purchase. Mr. McCue asked if this includes the research building and Ms. Laflamme confirmed that it does not. Ms. Remillard asked if at some point, the research building could be torn down to add parking. Ms. Laflamme noted that the research building is one of the most historic in the entire state.

Riverwalk Ms. Laflamme stated that an application has been sent to the Northern Border Regional Commission for a Riverwalk; we will find out in the fall if the application will be funded.

EPA Superfund Site The EPA has identified a responsible party being Georgia Pacific. They are working with EPA for the best course of action beginning with reinforcing the wooden penstock and building a bridge so that the penstock is not further degraded.

Phragmites which is an invasive weed has been found in the wetlands area by the high school property. If left alone, it will take over all vegetation. It was likely brought in with fill for the snowmobile trail. A contractor has been retained to take care of spraying it this fall.

Ms. Laflamme reported that new signs at Mt. Jasper were vandalized.

Mr. Allain commented that the Ski Jump property has been cleared of trees and brush allowing the structure to be seen.

Public Comments

Barbara Tetreault asked if the Rotary Park Boat access will be part of the Route 16 Project. Ms. Laflamme indicated that Rotary Park will remain a natural canoe, kayak launch.

Adjournment

There being no further business Mr. Evans moved to adjourn; Mr. Cassidy seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay