

BOLTON PLANNING BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
October 23, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall

Present: Doug Storey (Chairman), John Karlon (Board Vice-Chairman), Frank Lazgin, James Owen (Associate Member), Mark Duggan and Jennifer Atwood Burney (Town Planner)

Not Present: Stephen Garner

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

GENERAL BUSINESS

UMass Amherst Students Team with Planning Board to Conduct Village Center Planning Study – Public Forum #1

One of the goals identified in Bolton's 2006 Master Plan is to develop tools that will guide and control future development in Bolton that benefit or enhance the community and retain the historic village character of Main Street and its small town and rural character.

To help accomplish this goal, the Planning Board has partnered with a team of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning graduate students from the University of Massachusetts Amherst to examine the possible establishment of village center zoning within Bolton. The Town is interested in studying ideas for small-scale economic development that centers new commercial and residential growth around and within the existing village center and other already developed areas. This project will assess existing development patterns, parcels, building types and uses, utilities and environmental features such as topography and view sheds to determine a logical boundary for a proposed village center zone. Research into other village center bylaws will be another product of this project.

At this public meeting, student representatives gave a brief overview of the study's goals and objectives, preliminary assessment and analysis, and of any other work they have completed to date. The majority of the meeting focused on gathering the ideas, comments, and opinions of residents. Meeting participants were also involved in a guided discussion of their goals and vision for a potential village district. They were encouraged to participate in activities to survey visual preferences as well as favorite/special/unique places in Bolton.

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Atwood Burney, Town Planner