

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2010  
AT THE JESSE SMITH LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM  
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Jeff Partington, Chairman, presiding.**

**Members Present:** Jeff Partington, Dov Pick, Marc Tremblay, Leo Felice, Bruce Ferreira, Michael Lupis, Jim Libby, Christopher Desjardins and Jeff Presbrey.

**Others Present:** William Guertin, PUD, Thomas Kravitz, Planning & Economic Development Director, and Christine Langlois, Deputy Planner.

**II. ATTENDANCE REVIEW:**

The Chairman acknowledged that all members were present.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

The **minutes of the Planning Board meeting of November 1, 2010** were read. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Presbrey, seconded by Mr. Felice and carried unanimously by the Board.*

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter from Crossman Engineer in regards to Harrisville Village (Identifying the amount of Impervious Surface Area due to the plan modification)

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Major Land Development:**

**Harrisville-Pascoag Multi-Use Path, Burrillville, RI; Map 158, Lot 78: *Final Plan Review*:** Mr. Kravitz informed the Board that he had attended a meeting earlier in the day with the Town Manager regarding future capital improvement projects, and that the pathway project was being considered for funding. He noted that in conversations with the consultants he was told that the estimated construction costs were based on RIDOT prices, which tend to be higher; however, the DPW Director had stated that he could construct elements of the pathway next summer as his work schedule may be more accommodating. He added that the Town has almost \$200,000 to \$300,000 in grant funds. He noted that the consultants were not present this evening because he felt they have provided all of the changes the Board suggested at the last meeting and had also provided revised copies of the cross-sections. He pointed out that the proposed buffering plans, which had been discussed, and approved by the abutters, were submitted along with the cross-sections.

Mr. Ferreira asked if the proposed fencing would be high enough as the pathway appears in some sections at a higher elevation. Mr. Kravitz said that when construction begins, the pathway would be graded and the proposed height of the fencing is eight feet. The fence will be located in such a manner that it properly screens abutting properties. The fencing will be vinyl and suggested either a green or brown color vs. white to blend in better with the natural vegetation. Mr. Ferreira asked if the project would be phased, would consideration be given for snow removal at the crossroad sections of the pathway. Mr. Kravitz said that all of these items would be addressed. If it becomes necessary to

phase it, the only portion that would be broken out is whether it is paved or not. If for some reason it is not paved for the first two or three years, all of the gates and associated items would be put in place.

As there were no further questions from the Board, *a motion to approve the Final Major Land Development plan for the Harrisville-Pascoag Multi-Use Pedestrian Path was made by Mr. Ferreira in accordance with RIGL 45-23-60 and the following findings of fact:*

1. *The pedestrian path plan is consistent with several chapters of the Town's Community Comprehensive Plan, particularly:*
  - a. **Chapter VI – Circulation**  
***Policy VI.1.b***, “Ensure that development minimizes dependence on motor vehicles, and promote alternative modes of transportation, such as bicycle and pedestrian access”;  
***Policy VI.1.g***, “Increase the availability of trails, walkways and bikeways to promote alternative transportation modes to residents, and to enhance the tourist and recreational values of the Town”;
  - b. **Chapter VII – Economic Development**  
***Policy VII.2.c***, “Support tourism development as an alternative form of economic development”; ***Implementation Action VII.2.c.4***, “Develop historic walking tours and bike tours through the villages of Town”;
  - c. **Chapter VIII – Recreation, Conservation and Open Space**  
***Policy VIII.1.g***, “Seek to improve the opportunities for bicycling as an alternative transportation mode and recreational activity throughout the Town”;  
***Implementation Action VIII.1.g.1***, “Consider establishing a bike path linking the villages in the Town with other planned regional bike paths. Where feasible, the old railroad right of way should be examined for feasibility as a location for portions of the bike path. In concept, the bike path would link Smithfield to Wallum Lake and, eventually, to other paths in northern RI and the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor”;
  - d. **Chapter IX – Land Use**  
***Policy IX.3.b***, “Recognize the importance of recreation, open space, public access to water bodies, and historic resources to the Town's economy, in tourism development and in attracting and retaining industry”;  
***Implementation Action IX.3.b.2***, “Retain open spaces large enough to serve as wildlife habitat, store flood waters, abate air and water pollution, provide a sense of openness, and serve as buffers and aesthetic amenities to existing development”.
2. *The path is compliant with the general purpose and of the Town's Zoning Ordinance, particularly Section 30-2 Purpose, Subsections 1 thru 7, 10 and 11.*
3. *There will be no significant negative environmental impacts from the proposed development as shown on the plans which have been approved by RIDEM Wetlands Division Permit No. 10-0025, dated May 6, 2010. Additionally, any soil contaminants associated with the former railroad bed will be remediated in*

*accordance with RIDEM Office of Waste Management Program Letter dated April 27, 2010.*

- 4. No lots with physical constraints will be created as a result of this plan which will permanently conserve and protect the land as open space.*
- 5. The land will offer pedestrians physical access from Mowry Street, Railroad Avenue and Eastern Avenue.*

*The motion received a second from Mr. Desjardins and carried unanimously by the Board.*

Mr. Kravitz asked Mr. Guertin if he had any concerns with the proposed pathway. Mr. Guertin said he did not but liked the fact that the Town would be planting cedars for screening. He noted that every year it becomes necessary for the Pascoag Utility District to clear cut the pathway as some of the trees grow pretty quickly. The walking/biking path would make it easier on them in regards to maintenance. He added that when the Town determines that the construction will begin, the PUD will be able to clear cut the pathway prior to construction commencement in order to assist the Town with their project.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

##### **Report from Administrative Officer:**

Mr. Kravitz noted that during the month of November there were no Certificates of Completion issued and no plans certified as incomplete. The following plan was endorsed: **Brion & Tracey Stultz and Ann Dimuccio, Cherry Farm Road & Sherman Farm Road, Harrisville** (Administrative – 2 lots).

**Planning Board Discussions:** Having nothing further for discussion, *a motion to adjourn was then made at 7:12 p.m. by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Desjardins and carried unanimously by the Board.*

Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
M. Christine Langlois, Deputy Planner