Town of Falmouth Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee Minutes of Thursday, October 30, 2008



Members Present:	Hugh Smith; Kurt Klebe; Lissa Robinson; Hugh Coxe; Karen Farber; Jim Thibodeau
Member Absent:	David Chase
Others present:	

- Council Liaison: Joe Wrobleski
- Staff: Theo Holtwijk

Item 1 - Call to Order - Chair Smith called the meeting to order around 7:10 PM.

Item 2 - Shoreland Zoning - Introduction

Theo Holtwijk reviewed his memo, dated October 22, 2008.

The Committee was in concurrence with leaving Section 7 Shoreland Zoning intact as much as possible. Theo reported on the meeting staff had with Mike Morse of the DEP and with Gary Fogg and Judy Colby George. DEP needs to approve any amendments that the Town wishes to make. Gary and Judy worked on the existing version of the shoreland zoning map.

The LPAC work schedule anticipates just two meetings to review the proposed amendments in order to meet the July 1, 2009 deadline, with one meeting to make final changes. Tonight is an introductory meeting.

Item 3 - Shoreland Zoning - Policy Discussion

Three policy issues were flagged in the memo.

The first issue pertained to streams. Theo handed out a summary of several Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) definitions. The group also reviewed the current Shoreland Zoning Map and the 1993 Falmouth Natural Drainage Systems Map, as well as Gary Fogg's memo on streams, dated September 29, 2008. There was a proposal to adopt the NRPA definition for "stream," but limit the shoreland zoning application to those "as designated" on the official map. This is how it is currently done. There was an interest to know what all the available data sets were that Falmouth had access to and their source/accuracy. There was a discussion how far up river the tidal impact has been after the dam on the Presumpscot river was taken out. There was a general sense to not expand the stream mapping to what was shown on the 1993 Falmouth Natural Drainage Systems Map, but rather to retain the current extent of shoreland areas, as those seemed to already exceed the state minimum requirements. There was an interest to see the state minimum (which is partially based on USGS mapping) compared to the current Shoreland Areas, as well to see what the implication is of proposed revisions, such as

those required by IFW. In addition, the group wanted to know what resources would not be covered by Shoreland Zoning and what the current protections were in place for those.

The second issue pertained to wetlands. As with streams, there was little interest to carry any additional data over onto the zoning map.

The third issue pertained to timber harvesting. Unfortunately, Al Farris was not present to provide his input on this issue. The group agreed that, if staff believed that prior Council action on repealing the timber harvesting section had taken place, that it should review the Town's files to seek conformation of that.

The group also requested a comparison between the Natural Resources Protection Act, the State's Shoreland Guidelines and the current Falmouth Ordinance concerning the stream and wetland resources.

Item 4 - Next Shoreland Zoning Discussion by LPAC

The next time LPAC will discuss shoreland zoning is November 20. Other topics will be tackled by LPAC on its November 13th meeting.

Item 5 – Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Draft meeting notes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, November 4, 2008