

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, August 18, 2015  
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

**Board Members Present:**

Charles Doke, Chairman  
David Kestner, Vice Chairman  
Glen Demers  
Martin Laferte  
Anthony Vittorioso  
Jim Horgan, Selectmen's Representative

**Board Members Absent:**

None

**Town Staff Present:**

SRPC Regional Planner Liz Durfee

**Public Present:**

None

**BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:**

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

At 6:00 pm Chairman Doke called the meeting to order and all present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Review and approve Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2015**

*Jim Horgan motioned to approve the minutes of August 4, 2015 as written; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glen Demers. The motion passed unanimously.*

- **Presentation of Aquifer Update Project**

Martin Laferte introduced Regional Planner Liz Durfee as the Town's new interim Planner and a member of the Aquifer Update Planning Committee. Chairman Doke invited her to begin her presentation.

Ms. Durfee provided a fact sheet about the Aquifer Protection Overlay District to the Board. Her presentation included the definition of groundwater, why we should protect it, how to preserve it, potential threats, and why the overlay district needs updating.

Discussion also included the following information about Farmington's groundwater: most of the aquifer lies under the Cocheco River and along Route 11; one of the three existing wells is not included in the overlay; 14 contamination sites are identified within the well head protection area; changes to population and water use; clean-up plan for contaminated sites and impact on Town water from surrounding communities.

Members expressed concerns about the effect of Rochester's groundwater protection plan on Farmington, if Rochester is tapping into Farmington water, potential threats to Farmington due to upstream activities, possibly creating serious hurdles to economic development, limiting the types of business allowed in the Route 11 corridor and creating a "tough sell" for the ordinance by developing an overly protective plan that doesn't allow residents to use their parcels for uses that are currently allowed.

Ms. Durfee said the Planning Committee has been getting organized, has set up a time frame to complete the update to the zoning ordinance and is working on the best ways to disseminate information to the public. Selectman Horgan suggested an informational mailing may be the most effective way to inform residents as about half of the Town does not have cable TV.

Ms. Durfee said the language in the existing Overlay District is minimal but is not that different from what the recommended language is in the update. The key is to find a balance between protecting existing and future water sources with minimal restrictions. She said she plans to return to the Board with additional updates as the work progresses.

***At 6:30 pm David Kestner motioned to take a 10 minute break; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Horgan. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting reconvened at 6:40 pm.***

- **Discussion on SRPC Membership Dues**

Chairman Doke noted that dues have risen to \$6,773.49 and asked Ms. Durfee to discuss the benefits in being a member town in the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. She said some member benefits include lower rates for contracted services, additional types of services available, more time and support for grant applications, some free services are available to members and targeting of available funds to member towns. Members asked for a breakdown of the benefits of membership, a list of rates for various services for member and non-member towns, how the dues money is spent and when the dues are due. Ms. Durfee said she will provide the requested information to the Board in time for the next meeting.

***Martin Laferte motioned to table the issue to the next meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Horgan. The motion passed unanimously.***

Ms. Durfee also asked for clarification of her assignment as interim Planner for the Town. Chairman Doke suggested she consult with Town Manager Arthur Capello, Planning Board Secretary Bette Gallagher and Building Inspector Dennis Roseberry for guidance. David Kestner suggested some tasks including review of the proposed camper, storage containers/trailers regulations, answering questions, solving language issues and assisting with applications.

- **Any other business to come before the Board**

None

***At 7:10 pm Martin Laferte motioned to adjourn the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glen Demers. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

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Charles Doke, Chairman