

**THE PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

December 4, 2012

MINUTES

Planning Board Members Present: L. Kunhardt, M.Tartalis, A.Arnold, H.Camirand, P.Tolman, L.Ames

Others Present: Catherine Houghton, Lisa Bourbeau, Betty Behrsing, Gary Paige, Henry Kunhardt, Abby Dewea, Mike Branley, Kerry Camirand, Richard Levitt, Dave Hanlon, Larry Kullgren, Charlie Pyle, Sarah Pyle, Betsy Hardwick, Pat Terry

Barb Martin is taking the minutes.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:00 pm.

Announcements and Communications

None.

Unfinished Business: Crotched Mountain Ski and Ride

Tartalis recuses himself tonight and for last meeting.

P. Terry presented updated lighting plans. Shields may reduce the lumens on the mountain. Some information indicates there would be enough light to safely operate. Light shields still need to be installed. Crotched would like to open again this weekend.

Juno Lighting provided the lighting plans. Juno works with the company that supplies the light fixtures to Crotched. Lighting recommendations are based on information provided by the customer (Crotched).

Terry asked the board if the light fixtures and shields were installed, would Crotched then be in compliance.

Discussion on light fixtures and shields.

Compliance Hearing will require 12 days to properly notice, and a site inspection must be completed.

Terry to contact Kunhardt by December 15 to advise if Crotched will be installing shields/visors on the lights, and when they will be ready for inspection.

Kunhardt stressed the importance of Crotched showing good faith in moving forward.

Board discussed timing, scheduling site walk and hearings.

If light shields are up at the time of the Compliance Hearing, then the hearing will go forward. If shields can't go up, applicant must provide verification from a professional that lighting shields cannot go up. Board may then issue an amended Notice of Decision.

Board agreed that as long as applicant was performing due diligence, administrative penalties will be delayed.

Discussion Open to the Public

Larry Labor expressed concern over the shields and how they affect the lighting.

P. Terry explained the lights are floodlights and are designed to illuminate a broad area and a shield may cut off too much light.

Terry will get back to the board by December 15 and will advise how they will proceed.

Break for 5 minutes.

New Business: CIP Plan 2013 – 2025 Long Term Focus

Highway:

Road Agent, Gary Paige, advised that the State has recommended that two bridges in town be closed. They are Woodward Hill and 2nd New Hampshire Turnpike South. If the town keeps them open, the town will assume 100% of the liability.

Woodward Hill will be closed December 5, 2012, with Route 47 to follow. Route 47 has a culvert problem.

The State inspector was surprised at how much the bridges had deteriorated in the past two years (since last inspection).

Arnold pointed out how this was a big expense that was not planned for.

Board discussed the town's past and future expenditures (excluding bridges, town buildings). Discussion about alternative and creative ways to save money.

Board discussed alternatives to the current fire department and the possibility of going regional. Very few fire fighters are in town during the day.

Board discussed inflation and the impact it has on CIP, especially road improvements.

Discussion about renting heavy equipment instead of purchasing.

G. Paige has tried to extend the warranties as long as possible on all vehicles and equipment. Town can keep vehicles longer, but will need to increase repair funds to cover these expected expenses.

Discussion about snow plowing; town vs. contracting. Winter operation is 70% of what the Highway Department does.

Discussion about dirt roads vs. asphalt roads.

In 10 years town could start putting aside funds for buildings. Discussion about bringing Town Hall to a usable state.

Fire:

Larry Kullgren advised the availability of volunteers is declining, but sustainable. Regionalization is possible, and will not be a volunteer service. There will still be expense. There are still inspections that need to be made.

There are 135 events per year or 10,000 personnel hours. Administrative expenses are increasing.

Board discussed administrative requirements and costs, and stipends for volunteers, with a goal of paying senior ranking volunteers at some point.

Board discussed life of fire vehicles and how to get longer life and replacement of vehicles in the coming years, possible resale values of any equipment and combined use for vehicles.

Kullgren addresses water issues. Rural town water supply was developed but never implemented. It would cost \$30k - \$60k to put in a fire pond.

Board discussed types of vehicles and how successful the fire department is at putting out fires and how that impacts insurance rates and town expenditures.

Board discussed water sources, trucks, their use and if any trucks are unnecessary.

Discussion about town infrastructure and how it is unattractive to businesses.

Further discussion about how to fund CIP without increasing the tax rate.

Town Buildings

Discussions about selling Town Hall, moving Police Station. Can town get rid of some buildings to save money?

Board discussed the use of the Town Hall for Town Offices. Should Town Hall be kept? With the L-Chip grant it will cost the town \$12k to fix the basement, and another \$8k to put in a furnace. Only then would it be useable.

Board discussed maintenance issues that have been put off. Several buildings need new furnaces, paint, etc.

Long term goal discussion on buildings, pushing out the life on vehicles.

Board discussed raising the tax rate and bonding as possible solutions.

Next CIP Meeting is January 8, 2013 at 6pm.

Review of Minutes

November 27, 2012:

Page 2: insert after Francestown "is the Total Core Focus Area as defined in the Piscataquog Water Land Conservation Plan of 2010."

Tom, not Ken Anderson

Replace posting wording, to be corrected as provided by Linda Kunhardt.

Page 3, paragraph 3, insert "possible" before violation.

Motion to accept as amended: H. Camirand, 2nd: M. Tartalis.
Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2012 at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Martin