# MEETING MINUTES <br> GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD <br> Wednesday, January 23, 2013 <br> Memorial Town Hall - $3^{\text {rd }}$ Floor <br> 7:00 p.m. 

Present: Mr. Harry LaCortiglia; Mr. Christopher Rich; Ms. Tillie Evangelista; Mr. Bob Watts;
Mr. Tim Howard, (arrived at 7:30 PM); Mr. Howard Snyder, Town Planner; Ms. Wendy Beaumont, Administrative Assistant.

## Meeting Opens at 7:16 PM.

## Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes of January 9th 2013.

Mr. Rich - Motion to accept minutes of January 9, 2013 subject to any changes made by colleagues at this meeting.
Mr. Watts - Second.
Motion Carries: 3-0-1; Unam. (Mr. Rich - Abstain).

## Correspondence:

1. Town of Boxford: ZBA Special Permit for undersized lot.
2. Town of Boxford: ZBA Variance for undersized lot.

Mr. Snyder - These are courtesy correspondences. This is for the construction of a single family home on an undersized lot.

## Planning Office:

1. Penn Brook School: Update.

Mr. LaCortiglia - I received an email from Mr. Rob Hoover which is as follows and is in your supplement packet. I do know that he is a school committee member as well. Mr. Snyder would you mind reading the letter?
\{Mr. Snyder reads the letter received from Bob Watts\}
Mr. LaCortiglia - Thank you Mr. Snyder. There were numerous emails sent between the Town Planner, Town Administrator and Town Council. Sounds like Town Council is advising us and the Town that Site Plan approval in the case of the Penn Brook School, is not warranted, justified or allowed. That was my take on what I read.

Mr. Snyder - Right, Ms. Evangelista raised the question at the last meeting so I did a follow-up with the town's zoning code enforcement officer (Mr. Metivier, Town Building Inspector) and I also coordinated with the Town Administrator to see if he had any information. He gave me a copy of the Kopelman and Paige letter of which I enclosed a copy of in your packets.

Mr. Rich - Which came first? Did Mr. Metivier have a copy of the Kopelman and Paige letter?

Mr. Snyder - I don't know if the zoning code enforcement officer received a copy of the Kopelman and Paige letter or not.

Mr. Rich - Who asked the Kopelman and Paige to issue this letter?
Mr. Snyder - The Town Administrator requested the Kopelman and Paige letter and I believe did so on behalf of the Selectmen.

Mr. Rich - Are they the Planning Board now? I think it is very difficult to understand what the intent of this letter is without seeing the communication that requested this letter.

Mr. Snyder - OK, I understand.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Well I think anyone trying to follow along is going to be a little bit confused.
\{Mr. LaCortiglia reads the letter from Kopelman and Paige (Town Council) regarding whether a Zoning Permit or Site Plan review is required for a building with education purposes. Per the correspondence, the building must meet reasonable requirements which the Building Inspector will be responsible to see that the requirements have been met. $\}$
\{Mr. Howard arrives at 7:30 PM. Ms. Evangelista continues reading the letter.\}
Mr. LaCortiglia - We are being told here by Town Council that this project is outside the purview of any review by the Planning Board.

Mr. Watts - I see this as a reconstruction project - I think your point is well taken. This is not reconstruction.

Mr. Rich - There's a reason why the attorney is using the word "re-construction".
Mr. LaCortiglia - I want to point out that Stormwater Management was specifically mentioned.
Mr. Rich - Isn't there a supervening statute that requires Stormwater Management may have not been in place at the time and may now supersede it?

Mr. LaCortiglia - Interesting enough, in our own bylaws we passed Chapter 57 which grants authority for storm water management to the Conservation Commission.
\{Ms. Evangelista continues the reading of the letter.\}

Ms. Evangelista - I believe it was asked of him that this is a re-construction project and it is not. It is a brand new school. We are tearing down the existing school, moving it to a different area on the parcel, putting in another road, including an emergency road so there is a substantial
impact to the neighbors and may affect the erosion from storm water. The information I received from the Stormwater training is that $20-150$ tons can be eroded from one acre development. This is the biggest project that this town has seen. I think we must have a Site Approval.

Mr. Rich - I think it would be interesting. If I remember correctly there was an override question for the town to build a new school - not to re-construct the Penn Brook School. There is a reason why the attorney keeps stating the word "re-construction".

Mr. LaCortiglia - In defense of that, we don't have the query that was asked of Town Council.

Mr. Rich - The definition of the work "Re-construction" is "restored to an earlier state". He also states that the building would be exempt from the sanitary regulations in the town. That's not going to happen. They can put whatever they want for a septic system in there? I don't think so. What I am trying to say is that there are a lot of red flags coming up. It does not address a lot of points.

Mr. LaCortiglia - I agree with you. There are a lot of bylaws in town that hinge upon Site Plan Review of some sort.

Mr. Rich - I mean we are the Board that makes sure the sidewalks are right! This is a road going to a school! We're the Board that makes sure the roads are wide enough and that they have the correct pitch.
\{Mr. LaCortiglia continues reading the letter from town council, Kopelman and Paige.\}
Mr. LaCortiglia - It sounds as though the building inspector will be the one to determine the dimensional controls regarding height of the building, parking space size, and if the applicable requirements are met.

Mr. Watts - I think that going back to Ms. Evangelista's point and to Mr. Rich's point - there is nothing in this project that is re-construction. He uses the term "re-construction" very specifically - I don't think that this is related to a new construction project. I think we need to go back whether to the Selectmen or whoever it is that requested this letter to find out what they were asking.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Mr. Snyder, how is it that we (the Planning Board) or you were privy to a letter that was addressed to Mr. Mike Farrell (Town Administrator)?

Mr. Snyder - As to Ms. Evangelista’s comment at the last meeting, I coordinated with the Zoning Code Enforcement officer and I also went to the Town Administrator to seek a legal interpretation and found it was already done.

Mr. Rich - So we don't know if this is the legal interpretation of what you've asked. I personally would like to see the correspondence requesting this letter from Town Council. There are things
in here that are said and there are things that are not said. He hasn't seen the plans. If you don't know the relevant facts then how can you offer an opinion? And now Mr. Hoover has written a letter stating that the Planning Board should be involved in this process.

Ms. Evangelista - I am on the school building committee as you know. The engineer that is doing our feasibility study had said that some towns have a site approval process and some don't. He stated that it depends on the Board's attitude as to whether they want to do it or not. But in no way in a sense can they deny anything. So site approval is not on the use at all. We address the site and never address the use. In regards to a Special Permit, it is usually through the Zoning Board of Appeals. I did a printout that is in the supplement - I looked up Andover's information and called them. They have a very sophisticated land use department. What they do there is they don't have a hearing; they have a meeting and go over the listing on the application. They notify the abutters as a courtesy.

Mr. LaCortiglia - It sounds like Town Council says that the Building Inspector has full responsibility to make all of the decisions about the project and in Andover it sounds like the Building Inspector is saying "help me" with Site Plan Review to the Planning Board.

Mr. Snyder - What I gather from the Town of Andover is that the building inspector would receive this type of application and a design review committee would be formed and review information being presented, form a report and present the report to the Planning Board. The Planning Board would review that and then issue recommendations to the applicant.

Mr. Rich - I feel compelled to bring it up but if we get at logger heads, we may have to seek our own council. I would like not to discuss this anymore until we find out how this information was requested.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Can I make a suggestion, in the interest of time, there seems to be a couple of questions. Given that this letter was not given to the Planner directly maybe Mr. Snyder can talk to Mr. Jonathan Eichman and send him the correspondence and let him know that the board has some questions, the first of which is seeing that he did not see the plan that this project is the complete demolition of one building and the new constructing of another on the same land but a different site within the lot.

Mr. Rich - Are there plans?
Ms. Evangelista - Yes, but they are not complete.
Mr. LaCortiglia - We also want to know that everything he stated applies to a new construction.

Mr. Rich - We should add something in; including construction of new roadways, septic, inspection basically everything having to do with the project and so forth.

Ms. Evangelista - The inspection is what I am mostly concerned about. If we don't have a site approval and hire our consultants to review the plans then there will be no inspections.

Mr. Rich - Then Mr. Metivier becomes everything and everybody.

Ms. Evangelista - But he has not done one road in town.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Mr. Rich, you had mentioned that the school construction is exempt from the septic?

Mr. Rich - Reads a section of the letter which states "The purpose of site plan review is that to ensure that buildings are properly located on the site and adjacent properties are protected from nuisance and distracting visual features opinion the adequate drainage and septic, etc..."

Mr. LaCortiglia - Those things are outside our review because of Chapter 40A Section 3. Perhaps a clarification and ask if what is exempted is reviewed by the Board of Health?

Mr. Watts - It sounds like he is talking about a whole different project. The question is: "What is the scope of responsibility for the Planning Board?" It sounds like we do not have any as far as the letter goes. I want to make sure that if that is the case that he states that there is no reason for site review.

Mr. LaCortiglia - If that is the case and there is no jurisdiction and no reason for site plan review, there are some things that we need to be clear on is that the Board of Health or at least the DEP is covering the sanitary disposal system.

Mr. Rich - Another bylaw in town states you cannot move so many yards of fill.
Mr. Howard -You cannot move it off site, you can move it within the site.

Ms. Evangelista - They have to dynamite, fill in certain areas, and store it on the property to save some money.

Mr. LaCortiglia - I believe that you are referring to Chapter 49, the earth removal bylaw. (Describes and explains Chapter 49) Let’s ask Town Council - does Chapter 40A trump Georgetown bylaw Chapter 49. I would also like an opinion on Chapter 57.

Ms. Evangelista - This is fertile land that for hundreds of years never had a change in the water flow. You are dealing with many, many issues.

Mr. Rich - I don't want my comments being construed that I am against this project. I just want to make sure that it is done right.

Mr. LaCortiglia - I was a big cheerleader for this project from the beginning. My concern is that this has great impact to the community - water issues, etc... and all these things should be looked at. If we don't do it - it sounds like the Building Inspector is going to do it. This is going to be tough as we normally have the offsite engineers do the inspections and now it is going to be dumped onto the Building Inspector. I hope that he is ready to deal with that.

Mr. Watts - I think this is too much for the Building Inspector - it has to be done right.
Mr. Rich - We as the Planning Board are the overseers of new road construction. This is a 46 million dollar project!

Mr. LaCortiglia - Mr. Snyder, in summary what will you be asking?
Mr. Snyder - I will ask about Chapter 49, Chapter 57, earth removal, Board of Health, storm water management, and clarification of the school "re-construction" versus "new construction."

Mr. Rich - The first red flag was the word "re-construction."
Mr. LaCortiglia - It sounds like any non-conformity with the lot itself that would normally go to the Zoning Board of Appeals can be waived by the building inspector.

Ms. Evangelista - I have some questions that you can ask the lawyer. Who is responsible for maintaining it and inspecting it as it is being constructed?

Mr. Howard - I think Ms. Evangelista’s question is good. If not us then who looks over the shoulder of the contractor?

Mr. Howard - If not us, then who looks over the shoulder of the contractor to look out for the town's best interest?

Mr. LaCortiglia - Let's hope that if we're not it that we can at least find out who's going to be it. Let's move on now.

## Public Hearing:

1. Park and Recreation: Athletic Fields.

Mr. LaCortiglia - East Main Street recreational fields public hearing is now re-opened.
Mr. Mammolette - I am waiting for the drawings to get back from the printer with the changes that you had requested.

Ms. Evangelista - Mr. Graham has not seen the plans yet?
Mr. Mammolette - No he has not. In the interim I spoke with the Building Inspector. The flood plain apparently changed with the last FEMA update. I disagree with it, so I created a case to
state why I disagree. I then have to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals so that they will either issue a flood plain permit or say that one is not required.

Ms. Evangelista - Did you realize Mr. Snyder that he is making a judgment call on the FEMA changes?

Mr. Snyder - No. It did not change the bylaw; it was incorporated into the bylaw.
Mr. LaCortiglia - I think what Ms. Evangelista is asking is who is going to represent that information. How will we see the new FEMA lines versus the old lines?

Mr. Snyder - I believe that MVPC (Merrimack Valley Planning Commission) will incorporate it into our map.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Could you find out when that will be incorporated into the map?
Mr. Howard - How did the flood plain change impact your project Mr. Mammolette?
Mr. Mammolette - Negatively. When we got ahold of this land for this purpose they believed that the areas to be used were outside of the flood plain and somehow that line has been adjusted. There are some things I want to present to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of a flood plain application saying that I do not believe that the proposed project is in a flood plain. The proposed project is at the top of the water shed.
\{Discussion held in regards to flood plains and flood plain records.\}
Mr. LaCortiglia - What is it you are looking for from the Zoning Board of Appeals?
Mr. Mammolette - A flood plain permit if necessary.
Mr. LaCortiglia - If there are no structures, isn't it exempt?
Mr. Mammolette - I don't believe that it is. We are building on some impervious area.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Have you gone before them yet?
Mr. Mammolette - No, not until the first week in March.

Ms. Evangelista - Did the Building Inspector give you a denial so you had to go to the Zoning Board?

Mr. Mammolette - No. The project requires at least making the application for the flood plain permit process.
\{Mr. Snyder - Reads flood plain regulations in regards to a special permit.\}
Ms. Evangelista - Do we have to continue this?
Mr. Mammolette - Yes, I am requesting a continuation. Also, will you please let me know how many drawings will be needed?

Mr. Rich - We have gone through these plans a number of times. Can we minimize the number of plans to try to save Park and Recreation some money?

Mr. LaCortiglia - Are we required to have two sets for the office and one for the engineer?
Mr. Rich - Can you do it electronically?
Mr. Mammolette - I can burn it on a disc.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Do we want to wait to get the plans back and then do a continuation and then send them to Mr. Graham? Or have Mr. Graham review them first?

Mr. Howard - Mr. Graham should review them first.
Mr. Snyder - I will date stamp them and then they go on to Mr. Graham. We will keep apprise of the time for any continuations.

Mr. Howard - Would Mr. Graham want a hard copy or electronic?
Mr. LaCortiglia - Mr. Mammolette, when do you think we will get a copy of the plans?
Mr. Mammolette - I am hoping tomorrow or Monday morning.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Twenty seven pages - a good bit of information for Mr. Graham. The Zoning Board of Appeals is in March?

Mr. Mammolette - Yes.
Mr. Howard - Motion to continue the hearing to the March $13^{\text {th }}$ meeting.
Mr. Watts - Second.

## Motion Carries: 5-0; Unam.

## New Business:

1. ANR: 57 Jewett Street aka Wheeler Brook Farm.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Is the application complete?

Mr. Snyder - No, I have reviewed it and am just giving some information to the board about the ANR submittal.

Mr. LaCortiglia - The application is not complete. When we get the completed application we can then bring it up at the next meeting.

Ms. Evangelista - The thing is - can this be rejected instead of accepted?
Mr. Snyder - We received a filing fee today from Mr. Morehouse. Once the application is determined to be correct that is when the 28 day required review period starts.

Mr. LaCortiglia - To make it clear - as of today the application is still not complete and it is in the record.

Mr. Rich - The only red flag to me - is there something about our ANR process that you are having difficulty with Mr. Snyder?

Mr. Snyder - No. I just wanted to discuss this ANR as to show the activity of the Planning Office.

Mr. Rich - So you are going to advise Mr. Morehouse that the application is not complete and advise him?

Mr. Snyder - Yes, I already have.

Ms. Evangelista - My concern is that this date is January 7. If this application goes to the Town Clerk and she stamps it - the clock starts then.

Mr. LaCortiglia - An incomplete application can be stamped, but if it is not accepted by the board, then it is not accepted.

Mr. Rich - To be on the safe side maybe copy the letter to Mr. Morehouse stating the application is not complete and give a copy to the town clerk. This is setting up a good process for us, that when we reject an application - we don't want anyone thinking it a properly submitted application. That would cover it.

## Planning Office:

1. MVPC Clean Energy Plan.

Mr. Snyder - MVPC (Merrimack Valley Planning Commission) issued a Clean Energy Plan. I enclosed a copy for the Planning Board review and consideration. Also in your packet is a memo dated 2009 in regards to the Green Community's Act. An offshoot of this DOER getting Georgetown as a green community which would allow us to apply for different grants.

Mr. LaCortiglia - The green community grant and loans program - is there actually money in there right now? What would we be able to apply for?

Mr. Snyder - Yes, there is still money available. Programs and grants to help fund improvements to municipal buildings, solar energy in municipal buildings etc...

Mr. LaCortiglia - Maybe we should look at the recommendations page 42 - there are 3 points.
Ms. Evangelista - The first bullet there, about the dump - one member told me they could only dig six inches down.

Mr. Howard - There is probably a membrane over it so you can't dig down too far.
Mr. LaCortiglia - It states here that there are no fatal flaws that exist and they recommend that the town works with a regional renewable energy manage to move forward in regards to a solar farm on the landfill. Who holds this position?

Mr. Snyder - Most likely it is a MVPC staff opinion.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Who would we contact in regards to this - the Board of Selectmen or the energy committee?

Mr. Snyder - That will be part of my research as we start looking at the creation of these bylaws.
Mr. LaCortiglia - I just want to insure that they are made aware of these recommendations. It is interesting about the dump being a potential source.

Mr. Rich - I also find it interesting that it is addressed to the selectmen, Town Administrator and the Planning Board, that it informs the town of the energy audit program and am wondering if our energy committee is aware of it and if they took advantage of it to help identify potential energy savings.

Mr. Snyder - I believe that there have been improvements going on in a lot of municipal buildings.

Mr. Rich - The municipality can then apply for grants or rebate programs.
Mr. Watts - That is a good thing.
Mr. LaCortiglia - I think we missed the boat a while ago.
Ms. Evangelista - It is not only good for municipal buildings it is a good thing for residents as well. There is a grant for homeowners as well - well worth it.

Mr. Rich - Well I know my water bill has been reduced significantly with my rainwater collection system.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Does anyone want to send the recommendations to the Board of Selectmen or the Energy Committee?

Mr. Watts - Motion to send the recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, Energy Committee and to advise us of any action they took.
Mr. Rich - Second.
Motion Carries: 5-0; Unam.
Mr. Snyder - This information is on the MVC website so I can easily send all a link.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Could Mr. Snyder sent the Board of Selectmen a letter asking them to review pages $40-42$ of the report?

Mr. Howard - I think there are companies that come and build it and we don't give any money.
Mr. Snyder - There are - some get paid back with the energy savings.
Mr. Howard - I believe they lay it out - Amesbury has recently taken advantage of it.
Mr. LaCortiglia - So we will send a letter?
Mr. Snyder-Yes.
Mr. LaCortiglia - All in favor of sending a letter?
\{All board members respond in the affirmative

## 2. Pre-Conference Checklist: Draft revisions.

Mr. Snyder - Originally this checklist was revisited in terms of concerns about Stone Row meets and bounds. I coordinated with site inspecting engineer and also received comments from Mr . Rich.
\{Form is shown on the screen for all to see.\}

Mr. LaCortiglia - Mr. Snyder there are a lot of good changes here. This all came about with a desire by the board to ensure that this agreement makes it clear to the developer, that the proper location of the utilities regardless of who is installing them is the responsibility of the developer.
\{Mr. Snyder reads the form in regards to the utility placement.\}
Mr. LaCortiglia - I call your attention to paragraph \# 9 - approved by who?

Mr. Snyder - Anything in red parentheses was a question posed by Mr. Rich.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Minimum specs for should be in the regulations. Make it a note on the sketch that shows the subdivision roadway might be the best way to go.

Mr. Snyder - Mr. Varga will enforce anything that is on the plans. He said that it is fine to be here but should also be in the approval of conditions as well.
\{Reading of the Pre-Conference Checklist and discussion about the potential revisions.\}
Mr. LaCortiglia - Normally what happens is that the developer comes in for a permit then hands off to a builder and they have no idea of what the decision looks like - by having a preconstruction meeting - all would go over it bullet by bullet with signatures.

Mr. Rich - I think also that sections 6 - 34 should as a matter of form, be a part of any and all of our decisions. We need to know at the outset the application the developer's intention of proposing the street to be public way.

Mr. LaCortiglia - I guess I could agree to that.
Mr. Rich - This is generic to all - if we make it part of the decision then it should not fall through any cracks.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Can we go to number 30 please. Mr. Rich you are asking for us to have benchmark inspections at intervals?
\{Discussion held in regards to paving of roads.\}

Mr. Snyder - Mr. Varga voiced concern about being out at sites unnecessarily.
Mr. LaCortiglia - Number 31 looks new to me, I don't remember seeing that in the old agreement.

Mr. Rich - We discussed that - we did that when the previous Town Planner was here. I am going to be adamant that we include 6-33 in the decision.

Mr. LaCortiglia - I am all for that - do all agree? Don’t want to give the developer the idea that they will be getting a second shot on whether the road will be private or public. They have to commit with the decision.

Mr. Watts - That is good then there will be affirmation of the decision.
Ms. Evangelista - I never heard of \# 12 in regards to boulders. Does the inspector looks for that?

Mr. Watts - Just for my information - when were these initially adopted?
Mr. Snyder - These are admin forms for the Planning board.

Mr. LaCortiglia - It was about 4 years ago.
Mr. Snyder - These are forms established by the Planning Board.
Mr. Rich - Motion to approve the new wording and changed as discussed.
Mr. Howard - Second
Motion Carries: 5-0: Unam.
Mr. Watts - My question is that do we want to take a final look at it after all changes have been incorporated?

Mr. LaCortiglia - We can make changes at any time. We should add revision dates as well. Mr. Snyder, when it is completed please send it out to all of us please.

## 3. Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Someone was under the impression that we did not have an appointed a member to the Capital Improvement Committee (CIP).

Mr. Snyder - I needed confirmation of who the Planning Board appointment was. It was suggested that we reach out to Mr. Michael Howard to see if he going to re-up.

Mr. Rich - Is he active in the CIP?
Mr. Snyder - It is my understanding that CIP has not been active because of funding but now there are more funds.

Mr. Rich - CIP recommended that the highway department get new equipment and the school department get new equipment for the astro turf.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Recommendations don't come to us anymore they goes directly to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Snyder - Yes, I will find out if Mr. Mike Howard is still interested in serving.

## 4. Fiscal Year 2014 Budget: Draft.

Mr. Snyder - The unified MA accounting system (UMAS) has new category numbers. Some remain the same and some are new.
\{Mr. Snyder shows the form on the screen for all to review.\}

Mr. Snyder - There is a forty percent decrease from 16K (last year's approved budget) to Fiscal Year 2014 budget of \$10,000.
\{Mr. Snyder discusses the reason why it is less.\}
Mr. LaCortiglia - What do we have for upgrading office equipment?
Mr. Snyder - Replacing the laptop would be beneficial and I could use the old one for the presentations for our meetings.

Mr. Rich - I think you are way undervalued there. You should have at least $\$ 800$ there for office equipment.

Mr. LaCortiglia - Please modify that to $\$ 800$. Is that good for all?
Mr. LaCortiglia - We are saving the town money - we chopped it by a third. I think that's pretty good.

Mr. Rich - Motion to designate Mr. Snyder to present the budget as amended to the finance committee Mr. Howard - Second.

## Motion Carries: 5-0; Unam.

Mr. Howard - I did get a hold of Mr. Rogers and he would like to keep the street name the same.

Mr. Rich - With respect to Penn Brook and the letter - is new construction of a school facility, subject to site plan approval? If not why and if so what exactly is covered?

Mr. Watts - The material we got on the solar and the wind is this material - what is the intended use of this?

Mr. Snyder - We will be drafting a bylaw - it is for you to become familiar with it.
Ms. Evangelista - Reminder of site walk on Saturday at 10:00 am.
Mr. Watts - Motion to adjourn the meeting.
Mr. Rich - Second.
Motion Carries: 5-0; Unam.
Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

