

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

DATE: May 9, 2013
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Large Meeting Room
FOR: Regular Meeting
PRESENT: Jonathan Hankin, Chairman; Suzanne Fowle; Richard Dohoney
Brandee Nelson, Associate Member
Chris Rembold, Town Planner

Mr. Hankin called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

FORM A'S:

There were no Form A's presented.

MINUTES: APRIL 25, 2013

Approval of minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN:

Mr. Rembold said he had hoped to get a formal comment from the Planning Board on the OSRP. He said this plan had been updated in concert with the Master Plan. Traditionally the OSRP and the Master Plan are two different documents. The attempt has been made integrate the OSRP information into the Master Plan. The documents have to stay separate documents as required by the State format. There was a rigorous review of the demographics, where build-out might occur and what is open space. The plan has conditional approval until 2018 which makes the Town eligible for funding. The Town had not been eligible for the last few years because the plan had expired. Approval of the plan is good for five years at which time it would need to be reviewed, updated and resubmitted for approval.

Mr. Rembold said he held a forum for review on May 2, 2013. The forum was a brief review of the major finding and the key goals of the plan.

Mr. Hankin asked what the highlights were.

Mr. Rembold said he gave a slideshow with a brief synopsis of the major points. He said the Planning Board should consider all aspects of the plan as it is the concern of the Board.

Ms. Fowle said she had previously read the plan and made some edits. She offered to provide some photos of winter and fall to break up some of the green in the selected pictures. She said she liked the samples that were chosen but she suggested some seasonal diversity would be good.

Mr. Rembold said he would be happy to have more diverse pictures for both the OSRP and the Master Plan. He said many people were vocal about connecting the Appalachian Trail to the downtown but the people in charge of the trail are not interested. They want the trail to remain a wilderness trail.

The River Walk, paddling access and walking trails are all major development sites on the river.

Ms. Fowle said she would like to see the hunting section expanded. The section as written is too short.

Mr. Rembold said he would review the section.

Mr. Hankin asked the Board to at least review the power point so a recommendation can be done at the next meeting.

Mr. Rembold asked for a written letter with comments.

HOUSATONIC VILLAGE ZONING:

Mr. Rembold said he wants to keep the BRPC review on the Board's radar. He said he would like to use the information in conjunction with the Master Plan discussions.

Ms. Nelson said she read the report. She said she took from it that two regulations would need to be passed, to take away the B-2 zone and replace it with a traditional community zoning district and to provide an overlay district for 2-3 family dwellings. There was nothing to address parking limitations associated with multi-family housing.

Mr. Rembold said he would like it to be an agenda item in June or July.

Mrs. Mooney said people will be interested in possible reuse of the school and the mills.

Mr. Rembold said the school is to be "moth balled, as a cost saving measure for the Town.

Ms. Nelson there is supposed to be capital improvement money to keep Ramsdell open.

Mr. Rembold said it keeps getting pushed back. He said he would keep it for an agenda item for June or July and keep the discussion limited to the B-2 zone in Housatonic. The discussion will be more productive if it is limited.

TOWN PLANNER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rembold gave the Board a brief overview of the Annual Town Meeting items of interest to the Board. He said the zoning change passed, the landfill cell tower question passed by more than 2/3 vote, the Mullen rule passed as did the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. Rembold said the Planning Board will deal with a Site Plan Review application and a special permit recommendation for 210 Main Street (the Arnoff site) at their meeting of June 13. The Board scheduled a site visit for 6:30 P.M on that date.

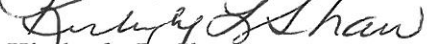
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Mr. Rembold said BRPC will hold their 5th Thursday dinner on May 30th at the Cork & Hearth in Lee. The Board will need to reorganize at the next meeting.

The Board thanked Mr. Dohoney for his time on the Board.

Without objection, Mr. Hankin adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly L. Shaw
Planning Board Secretary

