

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Workshop with the Planning Board Wednesday, October 6, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Gahara called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT

Town Council: James Gorton, Vincent Lembo, Jr., James Levesque, Michael Pischetola, Nancy VanScoy and Chairman William Gahara

Planning Board: John Gryval, Jack Mudge, Dick Marshall, Martin Cannata, Tom Walsh, Yervant Nahikian (arrived at 6:10 pm), Robert Duhaime (arrived at 6:30 pm), Dale Hemeon (Public Works Director) and Carol Granfield (Town Administrator)

Staff: Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner) and Dan Tatem (Stantec)

WORKSHOP

Sidewalks

The purpose of the workshop is to address the impact of additional roadways and sidewalks approved by the Planning Board on Public Works Department.

Discussion

- In general, the Town Council did not approve of sidewalks due to costs involved for maintenance.
- The Planning Board has approved them to comply with the Town ordinance and requirements to have provisions for sidewalks.
- Per Town Ordinance, sidewalks are required for commercial, industrial and high-density residential areas.
- The Master Plan identifies sections of the Town in need of sidewalks.
- There was no indication from the Town Council they did not approve of the sidewalks.
- The Council needs to adopt a policy on sidewalks.
- Currently, the Town has 26 roads with 11 miles of total sidewalks (4 miles of State) to be maintained.
- Currently, there is no CIP fund for sidewalks.
- Public Works Department is unable to maintain State and Town sidewalks due to shortage of staff and budget constraints.
- All State sidewalks have to be maintained in the winter.
- It takes 4-5 days for Public Works staff to maintain all State sidewalks in the winter.
- Public Works will need at least 3 additional machines and additional staff in order to take care of all State and Town sidewalks.
- The Planning Board needs direction from the Council

Suggestions

- Adopt an ordinance requiring homeowners to take care of sidewalks in front of their properties and impose fines to those in violation.
- Check into what other Towns have for ordinance.
- Make the roads wider and paint a designated area as sidewalks.
- Form a committee to look into sidewalks and make recommendations.
- Adopt a policy on sidewalks.
- Authorize Kiwanis and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to check into grants available.
- Establish CIP fund for sidewalks.
 - *A plan is needed in order to establish a CIP fund.
 - *Have SNHPC work on a sidewalk plan.
- Require developers to build sidewalks and homeowners to maintain them.

- Have the Town Administrator check into legal liabilities.
- Have a referendum and add a non-money item on the ballot asking the voters if they would like to have sidewalks.

Chair Gahara was excused at 6:35 pm.

V. Lembo moved to establish a CIP fund for sidewalks and have CIP set the amount. Motion seconded by J. Levesque.

D. Marshall pointed out that a plan is needed in order to establish a CIP fund.

R. Duhaime suggested having SNHPC work on sidewalk plan.

Roll call vote

J. Gorton	Yes	M. Pischetola	No		
V. Lembo	Yes	N. VanScoy	Yes	4-1	<u>Motion carried.</u>
J. Levesque	Yes				

The concession was to have a plan and present it to the voters for approval.

N. VanScoy stated the Council should have a policy on sidewalks. The Council needs to give guidance and direction to the Planning Board.

D. Hemeon suggested checking the legal liabilities involved prior to adopting policies. C. Granfield will check with LGC.

The consensus was to keep the ordinance as it is and require the developers to provide sidewalks on commercial, industrial and high -density residential area. The Council will discuss further when more information is available.

Other Planning Items

M. Cannata expressed his disappointment with the Council's decision not to support the Sustainable Communities Initiative.

D. Marshall and R. Duhaime both agreed with M. Cannata and added that Hooksett gave up their voting seat on the regional board by voting not to support the initiative.

D. Marshall also added that the idea that this had something to do with the railroad was ludicrous. The Planning Board stays out of politics. The board is for the Town.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Vincent F. Lembo, Jr.
Town Council Secretary