

Moultonborough Planning Board
P.O. Box 139
Moultonborough, NH 03254

Special Meeting

January 2, 2013

Minutes

Present: Members: Tom Howard, Chair; Peter Jensen, Chris Maroun, Paul Punturieri, Josh Bartlett; Russ Wakefield (Selectmen's Representative)
Alternates: Natt King, Bob Goffredo
Excused: Member: Judy Ryerson; Alternate: Keith Nelson
Staff Present: Town Planner, Bruce W. Woodruff

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Howard called the special meeting to order at 7:00 P.M and appointed Mr. Goffredo to sit on the board with full voting privileges in place of Judy Ryerson.

II. Discussion and possible vote on setting a public hearing date for adoption of the Final Village Vision Charrette Report prepared by Plan NH as a Community Design Chapter Addendum to the 2008 Master Plan as per NH RSA 674:2 III. (k), RSA 674:4, and RSA 675:6.

The Chair stated that the Board is here this evening to discuss the Final Charrette Report and any action the Board may wish to take on that report. He asked the Planner to explain why we were here this evening sooner than anticipated. Mr. Woodruff spoke on the timelines of the various steps in the charrette process and also spoke about the timelines of the public informational meeting and BoS meeting regarding the 2013 Road Program and its relationship to the NH Rte 25/Old Rte. 109 intersection safety improvement (tee intersection alignment). He explained that although he felt it was important to move the process along, it was primarily due to the Town Administrator's feeling that we shouldn't waste the Town's money engineering something that may need to be changed (a tee to a future roundabout) if that was the direction the Planning Board wanted to go. Mr. Woodruff stated he recommended that the Board take some formal action on the report tonight; at least by accepting it and endorsing it, either in whole or in part. He spoke about the so-called alternates 1 and 2, which he felt were just two takes on what could be, rather than what should be, as vetted by the Town. That the concepts were starting points to be ground-truthed and agreed upon after a public process, therefore, he recommended that the alternatives could be reasonably excluded from the endorsement or addition to the Master Plan. He recommended that the Board set a public hearing date to add the report as written on pages 1-15 and page 18, inclusive to the Master Plan and to set said hearing out far enough so that some open workshop sessions with the public could also be scheduled.

The Chair then took comment from individual Board members. Each member spoke and the common theme was that the report needed more time for both discussion and opportunities for the citizens to take part in crafting any eventual planning product from the report. Comments ranged from the report can be a useful tool to the report is more of a vision, some of which may not be practical for the Town to implement or pay for. There was a general discussion that the report could be used as a basis for working

toward the next master plan which is now in the draft 2013 work plan for the Board. The Heritage Commission Chair, C. Ashjian stated that Master Plan Appendix E language led us to the Village Vision Charrette exercise. She spoke about traffic calming examples on a road similar to ours in Dublin that is very successful and could serve as a model.

There were several citizen comments. These ranged from: These are great ideas, but they need more thorough vetting, to it is a vision, a creative document that shouldn't be put on a shelf and not used. Others were that the Town shouldn't be rushed and the intersection can wait. That the real value of the charrette was to create interest and discussion. Selectmen Tolman, Mudgett and Patten generally spoke to the fact that the tee intersection could be put off if necessary for more opportunity to create good feedback, and that it is a good thing.

More discussion on roundabouts and traffic calming and safety improvements for pedestrians in the Village ensued. Some citizens commented that they don't agree with traffic calming or the vision of the report for the village, but that the safety aspect of pedestrian movement, especially for school children was very important and shouldn't wait. There was discussion on the costs of maintenance, how things could be designed, and that we should start with the most simple, practical ideas first and couple them with reasonable enforcement of speed limits.

Motion: Mr. Punturieri moved to accept the report, and add it to the 2013 Work Plan with the goal of adding it as a publicly vetted, community revised report as a Master Plan section in the future; seconded by Mr. Bartlett. Discussion ensued on breaking this motion into separate parts. The motion was withdrawn by the mover and seconder.

Motion: Mr. Punturieri moved to accept the Final Charrette Report, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, carried unanimously.

Motion: Mr. Punturieri moved to add the report to the 2013 Work Plan with the goal of adding it as a publicly vetted, community revised report as a Master Plan section in the future, seconded by Mr. Maroun. After Board discussion on this, where it was noted that the draft work plan already calls for beginning work on the master plan process, and where this report could be used as a starting point for village planning, it was noted that the motion was not needed. The mover and seconder then withdrew the motion and second. The Chair noted the upcoming work plan is key for how you use this final report.

There was further discussion and public comment on the report. There was a stated concern that the Board would not take any good ideas from the report, that they agree it needs more public vetting, but that safe passage for village pedestrians and school children is a very important safety issue whose possible solutions shouldn't wait.

Motion: Mr. Punturieri moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they postpone moving forward with the NH Rte. 25/Old Rte 109 intersection safety improvement (tee design) until 2014, seconded by Mr. Maroun, carried by a 6-1 vote, with Mr Wakefield in the negative.

Mr. Woodruff spoke about the charrette team, which had a prominent staff member from NH DOT on board who stated that the DOT was very supportive of whatever village plan or traffic calming design the Town ultimately came up with and that they would support a project going into the ten year plan process.

A Citizen spoke about the recommendations contained in the Rte 25 Corridor Study and his recommendations on what should be done in the village. There was additional discussion regarding whether roundabouts would fit at either the subject intersection or the Holland St intersection.

III. Other Business/Correspondence

No other business was taken up by the Board.

IV. Adjournment: Mr. Maroun made the motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM, seconded by Mr. King, carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce W. Woodruff
Town Planner