



Meeting Minutes
North Hampton Planning Board Work Session
Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 6:30pm
Town Hall

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These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.

Members present: Phil Wilson, Chair; Shep Kroner, Joseph Arena, Laurel Pohl, and Jim Maggiore, Select Board’s Representative.

Members absent: Barbara Kohl and Mike Hornsby

Alternates present: Michael Coutu

Others present: Brian Groth, RPC Circuit Rider, and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary

Mr. Wilson convened the meeting at 6:35pm, and noted for the record that the meeting was properly posted.

Mr. Wilson seated Mr. Coutu for Ms. Kohl.

I. Old Business

2010 Community Survey: Mr. Kroner explained that he tried to get the 2010 Community Survey out by including it in the Library’s September issue of the Community Newsletter and was unable to because the Library Trustees did not think the survey “fit” within the framework of submissions to the Newsletter. Mr. Kroner said he spoke with Town Administrator, Steve Fournier who said that he would try and help reconcile the conflict. Mr. Fournier said that the Town funds up to 75% towards the Library’s Community Newsletter, and believes that the Planning Board has a right to utilize it. He sent an email to the Library Trustees stating that he felt the survey “fit” the mission of the Newsletter.

Mr. Kroner said that the demographic question on the survey needs to be finalized by the Board and asked for suggestions. He said that the question is important to the survey because it would determine whether or not the completed surveys are represented by the Town as a whole. He originally thought of putting in an income question, but Mr. Wilson said that most people don’t answer income related questions on surveys. It was suggested asking the age(s) of those completing the surveys.

Mr. Maggiore said that the Community Newsletter is a great way to get the survey out to the townspeople. He said that Mr. Fournier has spoken to Assistant Library Director, Lorreen Keating and will be talking to Library Director, Susan Grant as well. He said that the issue is not a “done deal”.

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47 Mr. Maggiore said that the Select Board did not have the opportunity to discuss it yet, but he will take it
48 up at a Select Board meeting for them to address.

49
50 Mr. Wilson said that the Library Trustees made the final decision not to allow the Community Survey to
51 be included in with the Community Newsletter. He said that the subsequent Newsletter is too late for
52 the Planning Board's purposes, so the Board should figure how to distribute the Survey in a way that will
53 produce a higher return rate.

54
55 Dr. Arena suggested asking the Library Trustees to fund the mailing of the Community Survey to make
56 amends for not allowing it to go out with the Community Newsletter.

57
58 Mr. Coutu said that the Newsletter was something the Library initiated that grew into a Community
59 Newsletter when the School and different Town Boards contributed to it. He said that the Library still
60 thinks of it as their product even though the Town funds 75% of it, and that it really should be a
61 "Community" Newsletter involving representatives from the School, Town and Library for purposes of
62 setting policies, guidelines, etc.

63
64 Mr. Wilson said that in the beginning the Library was having trouble getting enough copy to fill the
65 Newsletter so they welcomed input from other Boards.

66
67 Mr. Kroner said that he would like to finish, publish and distribute the Community Survey before the end
68 of September.

69
70 The questions the Board agreed to drop from the original 2005 Community Survey are:

- 71 • Question #14 - that North Hampton should maintain its rural New England Seacoast character
72 and heritage, because a group of people in North Hampton felt that it was a politically biased
73 question.
- 74 • Question #15 that dealt with Conservation Subdivisions; the Town adopted a Conservation
75 Subdivision Ordinance.

76
77 Mr. Kroner wanted to add a demographic question to the survey and map it to the U.S. Census to
78 validate the information they get back from the survey.

79
80 Mr. Wilson said that the 2005 Community Survey was sent out to 1,600 households and the return was
81 close to 20%.

82
83 Ms. Pohl said that, "statistically speaking" everyone who sent their completed survey back represented
84 the Town. She volunteered to do a statistical analysis.

85
86 Mr. Kroner suggested that they not include a demographic question in the 2010 Survey.

87
88 Mr. Kroner submitted copies of the Master Plan Chapters that need to be updated and the Chapter
89 assignments. Mr. Groth suggested that a new table of contents be added to the Master Plan. Mr.
90 Groth also suggested adding modern color to the digital copy of the Master Plan.

91
92 Mr. Kroner said that there are Chapters in the Master Plan that he feels are updated and asked for the
93 Board's input. He mentioned that the Vision Chapter was updated in 2006.

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95 Mr. Wilson suggested adding the three principles of the Vision Chapter to the 2010 Survey and direct
96 people to either check off disagree, strongly disagree or agree with those principles, and with that
97 information the Board can determine whether or not they need to update the Vision Chapter.

98

99 Ms. Pohl said that she would like to do a Survey for Channel 22. She said that Channel 22 is a great asset
100 to the Town and believes feedback from the community would be extremely helpful for the Town.

101

102 Mr. Wilson suggested adding a question within the Community Survey that would generate feedback on
103 how satisfied residents are with Channel 22, how often they watch it, and how useful it is to them.

104

105 Dr. Arena said that it is very important to include, somewhere in the Master Plan, a projection of how
106 the property taxes would be affected over the future years.

107

108 Ms. Pohl said that that could be accomplished by adding the Capital Improvements Plan in the Master
109 Plan.

110

111 Mr. Kroner said that it is already covered under the recommendations portion of the Master Plan that
112 shows future impacts on taxes.

113

114 Mr. Wilson agreed that the simplest way to do what Dr. Arena suggests is to include the CIP in the
115 Master Plan. He said it's particularly important this year because the School may be coming to the Town
116 requesting bonding for a school expansion.

117

118 Mr. Maggiore said the school's current bond will be fully amortized in August 2011.

119

120 Mr. Maggiore explained that at the CIP Meeting, the Members were reluctant to do tax rate projections
121 because they were unsure of how accurate those projections would be, for instance if they project 2
122 cents on the dollar and it comes out to be an increase of 10 cents on the dollar; the public is not going to
123 be pleased. Mr. Maggiore said that he did speak about how important it was to have that piece of
124 information in the CIP.

125

126 Dr. Arena said that the public should be informed that projected impacts are *anticipated*; not
127 guaranteed.

128

129 Mr. Wilson said that if the CIP Committee doesn't want to include it in the plan, then the Planning Board
130 can take the CIP's tax rate projections and incorporate them into the Master Plan.

131

132 Mr. Coutu said that the campus study may take fruition and would need to be heavily bonded.

133

134 Mr. Wilson agreed and said that there are significant projects on the table in Town, including the town
135 campus and expansion of the school, and those projects would need to be bonded. He said that the
136 Planning Board would do the Town a service if it did its best to try to project to people what kind of an
137 impact those projects would have on their taxes.

138

139 Mr. Wilson suggested that Mr. Kroner ask the Recreation Commission to get involved in helping with the
140 Recreation Chapter of the Master Plan and the Water Commission to help with the Water Management
141 Plan Chapter.

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143 Mr. Wilson said that the Board needs an economic team. He suggested that Ms. Pohl, Mr. Kroner and
144 Dr. Arena serve as members on that team. He said that after it's complete the Board can decide where
145 to put it in the Master Plan.

146

147 Dr. Arena commented that the main interest and concern to all the people in Town is "what are my
148 taxes going to be?"

149

150 Mr. Kroner will take the Board's suggestions (adding the three principles of the Vision Chapter and
151 questions on Channel 22 programming) and implement them into the 2010 Community Survey and
152 email it to the members by the weekend. Ms. Pohl will draft the question regarding Channel 22 and
153 send it to Mr. Kroner either tomorrow or the next day. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Kroner will work together to
154 "squeeze" it into the survey.

155

156 Mr. Kroner will contact Ms. Janet Gorman to see if Little Boar's Head updated their Master Plan yet.

157

158 Mr. Groth agrees with the RPC assignments regarding the Master Plan update.

159

160 Minutes

161

162 **July 15, 2010** – Mr. Wilson made non-substantive editorial changes to the July 15, 2010 Meeting
163 Minutes. Mr. Kroner moved and Ms. Pohl seconded the motion to approve the July 15, 2010 minutes as
164 amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (4 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions).
165 Dr. Arena and Mr. Coutu abstained because they were not present at the July 15, 2010 meeting.

166

167 **August 5, 2010** – Dr. Arena changed line #61 and removed the word "mandate". Mr. Kroner moved and
168 Ms. Pohl seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended.
169 The vote passed in favor of the motion (5 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention). Mr. Coutu abstained
170 because he was not present at the August 5, 2010 meeting.

171

172 Dr. Arena commented on Greystone Village and said that he abstained on the vote to conditionally
173 approve the modifications of the original plan because he believes the Board will go through the same
174 painful feelings when the project actually goes through, and that is why he did not vote in favor of it.

175

176 **September 2, 2010** – Minor changes were made to the minutes. Dr. Arena moved and Mr. Maggiore
177 seconded the motion to approve the September 2, 2010 meeting minutes as amended.
178 The vote passed in favor of the motion (5 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention). Mr. Coutu abstained
179 because he was not present at the September 2, 2010 meeting.

180

181 III. Other Business

182

183 Ms. Pohl updated the Board on the last CIP Committee meeting and said that the Committee received
184 part of the Departmental Capital requests that were due on the first of the month. She said that the
185 Recreation Department has not yet turned in their Capital requests, and nothing has been submitted for
186 Channel 22. Ms. Pohl was elected as the Committee's Chair and Mr. Maggiore was elected as the
187 Committee's Scribe. Ms. Pohl said that at the end of the meeting it became apparent that some
188 members did not know what the process was for the plan. She said that she contacted

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Glenn Greenwood from the Rockingham Planning Commission and he will be attending the next CIP meeting scheduled for October 19, 2010 to explain what the CIP process is all about.

Dr. Arena said that there should be a deadline date for the Department Heads to get their information to the CIP Committee, and if they don't make it then they should be made to use last year's figures. He said that it should be part of their job descriptions to get the Capital improvements information in by the deadline date.

Mr. Wilson said that the Town Administrator is on the Committee as staff support, with the responsibility of ensuring that the CIP Committee receives all information required to fulfill its duties in a timely manner.

Dr. Arena moved and Mr. Coutu seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary