

Meeting Minutes Work Session North Hampton Planning Board Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 6:30pm Town Hall, 231 Atlantic Avenue

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

Members present: Barbara Kohl, Chair; Shep Kroner, Vice Chair; Joseph Arena, Laurel Pohl, Mike Hornsby and Phil Wilson, Select Board Representative.

Members absent: Tim Harned

Alternates present: None

Others present: Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary

It was noted for the record that Mr. Kroner and Dr. Arena were re-elected as Planning Board Members by the Legislative Body on May 8, 2012; they stated for the record that they took the Oath of Office with the Town Clerk.

Public Hearing – Master Plan Energy Chapter

Mr. Kroner convened the Public Hearing on the Energy Chapter at 6:33pm. He explained that this is the second public hearing because substantive changes to the Chapter were made at the first public hearing held on April 17, 2012. The Board was in receipt of the updated Energy Chapter.

Dr. Arena commented that there was too much redundancy within the Chapter and that it could be, and should be condensed. He said that the finer technicalities don't need to be in the Master Plan. He said that the more simplistic you make; the more effective it is, and the more everybody understands it.

- Mr. Kroner opened the Public Hearing for public comment at 6:36pm.
- 36 Mr. Kroner closed the Public Hearing at 6:37pm without public comment.

Mr. Kroner asked if Dr. Arena wanted to table the consideration of the adoption of the Energy Chapter to another meeting. Dr. Arena replied that he would like to table it an, and said that the Board should go through the entire Chapter and pick out all the "chats".

Mr. Kroner explained that the Town received a grant and Theresa Walker from the Rockingham Planning Commission worked with the Energy Committee to draft the Chapter. He explained to Dr. Arena that the reason why the specifics are in the Chapter is because their trying to establish the groundwork for how an Engineer might approach projects in Town to make sure they live up to a set of strict energy efficient guidelines.

 Mr. Wilson commented that this is the first time the Town has had an Energy Chapter in the Master Plan and it's important to include the rationale for the recommendations made in the Master Plan. The context of the Chapter comes from a series of recommendations of what the Town of North Hampton should do. He said a lot of the material in the Chapter is documentation of trends in the State, Nation, and the World in respect to energy consumption and energy pollution from energy use, and what can be done, at a local level, in order to reduce pollution from the use of energy. He said that it is reasonable to put the detail as well as the generality in the Chapter. He said that he believes the Energy Commission will push the Town in the direction of these recommendations.

Ms. Pohl discovered minor errors within the Chapter: a typo on page 3; repeated paragraph – same paragraph in the second paragraph on page two as the third paragraph on page three; replace Selectmen with Select Board throughout the document. The Board agreed to make the changes and that they were not substantive so it was not necessary to hold another Public Hearing. Ms. Pohl commented that the Chapter was a "good start" and that the Board should adopt it.

Ms. Kohl asked if there was anything within the Chapter that could be used against the Town regarding developments.

Mr. Wilson said that, included in the Chapter, it encourages more mixed use development and compact development. Mr. Wilson said that the Town does encourage those things sufficiently with the I-B/R District which allows mixed use development as well as the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance that allows both mixed use and compact development.

Ms. Kohl said that she is concerned that a Developer would use the Energy standards to develop based on needs and they would insist on denser development.

Mr. Wilson said that the Board cannot allow more dense development unless the ZBA grants a variance, or if the Legislative Body would vote on an Article proposed by the Planning Board or Citizens Petition allowing denser development.

Dr. Arena said that he agrees a lot of work was put into the Chapter, but there is a lot within it that can be removed.

Ms. Pohl made the comment that the Board can adopt the Chapter, but there is nothing prohibiting the Board from changing it over the next year. Mr. Kroner agreed that changes can be made and they can hold Public Hearings over any proposed changes.

Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Kohl seconded the motion to adopt the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development Chapter of the Master Plan as emended.

The vote passed in favor of the motion (5 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstention). Dr. Arena opposed.

Mr. Wilson suggested that Dr. Arena redact the Chapter and come back to the Board next year with a shorter version.

Mr. Kroner thanked the Energy Commission and Theresa Walker for all their hard work.

95 Mr. Kroner closed the Public Hearing at 7:03pm. 96 Mr. Kroner convened the Work Session at 7:04pm. 97 98 Mr. Kroner said that the Heritage Commission is requesting that a Planning Board member be appointed 99 as an Alternate member to the Heritage Commission. 100 101 Ms. Sylvia Swank, a member of the Commission, was in the audience and explained that an Alternate 102 Member to the Heritage Commission can either be a Full Member or Alternate Member of the Planning 103 Board. She said that they have a sufficient number of members of the Commission and would like an 104 alternate member. She noted that the Heritage Commission meets the third Thursday of every month 105 at 9:30am. 106 107 Reorganization of the Board -108 109 Election of the Chair -110 111 Ms. Pohl nominated Mr. Kroner as Chair, Ms. Kohl seconded the nomination. 112 Mr. Wilson moved to close the nominations for Chair. 113 The vote was unanimous to close the nominations for Chair (6-0). 114 115 The question was called to the nomination of Shep Kroner as Chair to the Planning Board. 116 The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination (6-0). 117 118 **Election of the Vice Chair -**119 120 Mr. Kroner opened the nominations for Vice Chair without objections. 121 122 Ms. Kohl nominated Laurel Pohl as Vice Chair, and Dr. Arena nominated Tim Harned as Vice Chair in 123 unison. 124 125 Mr. Wilson noted that Mr. Harned was absent and opined that he probably would not want to accept 126 the nomination this year given that his job entails a lot of travel, and that he would probably want a 127 little more experience on the Board before serving as Vice Chair. 128 129 Mr. Kroner said that he spoke to Mr. Harned and he said that he would be fine with the Board remaining 130 status quo; he did not lend any other desire or insight on preferences beyond that. 131 132 Dr. Arena moved to close the nominations for Vice Chair. The nominations for Vice Chair were closed 133 without objection. 134 135 The question was called to the nomination of Laurel Pohl as Vice Chair to the Planning Board.

Board Committee Appointments –

The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination (6-0).

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- Long Range Planning Committee Mr. Kroner said that the Board typically has three (3) members serve on the Long Range Planning Committee. He read a list of things the Committee should focus on over the year:
 - Sign Ordinance
 - Article V, Section 506.6.G Signs other than the I-B/R District
- Article V, Section 506.6 add S. Any sign not specifically permitted by this Ordinance shall be prohibited.
 - Article IV, Section 409.8 and 410 reduce impacts on wetlands from septic systems
 - Update Article IV, Section 416 sample list of child-oriented businesses
 - Review Essential Services Article III, Section 302.11
 - Change Blasting Regulation to a Blasting Ordinance
 - Review Article V, Section 505 Temporary Structures (concession stands)
- Update Site Plan Regulation Section XIII B. 3. To reflect the State standards change the sq. ft.
 from 1,200 to 750 devoted to inside storage.
 - Clarification of Duplex Definition

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Mr. Kroner volunteered to serve on the committee, Mr. Hornsby volunteered, and Mr. Kroner volunteered Mr. Harned to serve on the Committee. Mr. Kroner and Mr. Hornsby are committed and will ask Mr. Harned at the next meeting.

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Application Review Committee (ARC) -

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Dr. Arena volunteered, Mr. Hornsby volunteered, and Mr. Kroner volunteered Mr. Harned to serve on the ARC.

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Rules and Regulations Committee -

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Mr. Kroner commented that the Rules and Regulations have not been reviewed by the Board for a few years and he would like to review and maybe update them. Mr. Wilson explained that the Committee was named Rules and Regulations instead of Rules of Procedure because the Board was authorized to include updates to the Excavation, Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations. He commented that the new committee may want to change the name to Rules of Procedure.

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Mr. Kroner, Ms. Pohl and Dr. Arena volunteered to serve on the Rules and Regulations Committee.

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Capital Improvement Program (CIP) -

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Mr. Kroner explained that the Board had to nominate a Planning Board member to serve on the CIP. He opened the nominations without objection.

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- 180 Ms. Kohl moved and Mr. Hornsby seconded the motion to nominate Laurel Pohl as the Planning Board 181 member representative to the CIP.
- 182 Mr. Kroner closed the nominations without objection.
- 183 The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion to nominate Ms. Pohl (6-0).

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185 Mr. Kroner volunteered to serve on the Heritage Commission as an Alternate member.

Mr. Wilson moved to nominate Mr. Kroner by unanimous consent, Dr. Arena seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (6-0).

Sylvia Swank informed Mr. Kroner that their next meeting is on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 9:30am.

Mr. Kroner commented that he was saddened to hear that Mr. Peter Fuller passed away. He said that Mr. Fuller and his family did a lot for this community as well as other communities around here. Mr. Fuller was an important member of the Community for a long time.

Mr. Wilson agreed and said that Mr. Fuller was a remarkable man.

Old Business

There was no "old business" before the Board.

New Business

Discussion of Continuance of Design Review – Harbor Street Limited Partnership – Joseph Falzone – Design Review Application for proposed 53-lot workforce housing subdivision presented to the Planning Board on May 1, 2012.

Mr. Kroner said that the Design Review doesn't specify how to handle it in terms of closing it or keeping it open. He said after reviewing the meeting minutes he thought that the Attorney for the Applicant had some sort of perspective that the Design Review was still open.

Ms. Pohl said that she had the opportunity to speak with Attorney Matt Serge when he was "on the clock" with another Town matter and she specifically asked him about the issue and he replied that there is really no reason not to continue it, and suggested the Board keep the Design Review open.

Mr. Kroner was concerned about notifying the Abutters to the subject property.

The Applicant, through his Attorney, offered to pay the cost of the newspaper notice.

Mr. Wilson said that a Design Review is a discussion on the materials presented to the Board by the Applicant. He said the Chair makes clear to the Applicant that the Board cannot vote to approve or disapprove, which Mr. Kroner did. The Board is there to provide "feedback" to the Applicant if they wish to proceed with the application. Mr. Wilson said that he has never remembered taking a formal vote to close a Design Review, and has never heard a request for a continuance. He commented that the Applicant did not request a continuance at the end of the May 1st meeting to a date certain, which is what is required in order for the Board to grant a continuance. Mr. Wilson agreed with the Attorney Serge that there is no reason not to continue the Design Review, but in the letter requesting a continuance from the Applicant's Attorney, Mr. McNeill, there was a lot more that they were requesting other than a continuance of their Design Review. In the letter they stated that they would like to discuss conditions of approval; the Board doesn't have a formal application and cannot begin to discuss conditions of approval; the Applicant would need to submit a formal application and the board would need to take jurisdiction of the application before they could begin discussing conditions of approval.

Mr. Kroner said that per discussions at the last meeting he did reach out to Rockingham County Conservation District to see if they would to do the environmental impact study and it was determined that RCCD did not have the information they needed to do it at this time; there's no High Intensity Soil Survey or drainage analysis.

Dr. Arena commented that the Applicant hasn't even decided which plan they were going to go with; the 53-unit workforce housing subdivision, or the 19-lot traditional subdivision. The Board cannot act until it knows what they decide to do.

Mr. Wilson said that North Hampton was among the first communities to pass a workforce housing ordinance, titled Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. He said he took offense to the Applicant questioning the Board if they were serious about workforce housing. He said he took greater offense to the editorial written in the Seacoast newspaper implying that the Town is opposed to workforce housing. He said the editorial was a misrepresentation of the Town and to the 80 to 100 people who showed up at the last meeting. He said that the people present were legitimately concerned about issues such as drainage into the head waters of the Winnicut River; the aquifer where we extract water for the Town of North Hampton and parts of Rye and Hampton; shared driveways, which are a concern regarding public safety, such as, emergency vehicle access. Mr. Wilson commented that there have been at least two letters sent to the newspaper rebutting the editorial which have not yet been published.

Mr. Kroner was misquoted in the newspaper as asking the audience if they were "opposed" to the workforce housing proposal when in fact he asked if they were "concerned" with the proposal. He requested a retraction and didn't get it, but another story regarding the proposal quoted him correctly.

Mr. Wilson said that he believes that those reporting in the newspaper have a right to their opinions, but when expressing those opinions the facts in which they base that opinion should be accurate, balanced and thorough.

Ms. Pohl said that she received E-mail communication from two residents, and their concerns were water, increased services, taxes, and traffic. Also, the "Santa Clause" comment was discerning to them. She said not once was it mentioned by either resident that they were opposed to workforce housing.

Dr. Arena said that the Town's people are concerned with the proposal because it has a real impact on the Town.

Dr. Arena moved to close the discussion on the topic because the Applicant was not present.

Mr. Wilson stated for the record that the Board was not talking about the substance of their application or design, the Board is talking about the reportage in editorializing of Seacoast online newspapers and it is perfectly appropriate to discuss that as long as they are in a public meeting.

Mr. Wilson agreed with Dr. Arena to close the discussion.

Mr. Wilson moved and Dr. Arena seconded the motion that the Board is more than happy to consider the Design Review being continued to the June 5, 2012 meeting; however the Board believes that under the circumstances it is important that all of the abutters be notified, as well as, re-notifying as

to the standard of the original notification for public hearing, because the only conditions allowed under which the Board is allowed to continue an application of this sort is when the Board votes at the end of the meeting to continue it to a date certain. The reason for this requirement is so that everyone in attendance knows when it will be continued to.

Mr. Kroner agreed that it is critical to make sure all the abutters are properly notified.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (6-0).

Ms. Pohl asked if there was enough time to post the meeting in the paper, and Ms. Chase said there was if it is noticed by Friday, May 18th.

- Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Kohl seconded the motion that if the Applicant doesn't comply with the prior motion, the Board will let them know that they cannot continue the meeting until the July 3, 2012 meeting.
- The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (6-0).

Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Pohl seconded the motion to request that the Select Board allow the Town's Attorney to attend all the meetings that deal with this application.

Ms. Kohl asked if the Town could get the Applicant to pay the Town Attorney fees and Mr. Wilson thought that technically they could if the Board felt the consultation was relevant to the application, but he doesn't know if that's the right course to take. He said he wants it to be clear that Town Counsel is independent of the Applicant and one of the issues that may arise for any application review for workforce housing is that the requirements of the Board is making it economically <u>not</u> viable, so it would be prudent for the Town to pay their own Attorney fees to protect the Town.

Ms. Pohl said the when going down that road, the town ends up subsidizing the developer, because it costs money the Town has to pay to put that development in.

Mr. Wilson said that maybe the motion should be made at the next meeting if in the judgment of the Board it appears to be prudent; after the Design Review.

Ms. Pohl offered another alternative for the Board to consider; having the minutes transcribed, because the minutes are the official record of the meeting. She said you can't attach the video to the minutes, but could attach the transcription to the minutes.

Mr. Wilson said that his reasoning to have the Town's Attorney present on any application is if whenever the Board feels that there are issues the Applicant would raise that the Board should be advised on how to pursue it properly.

Mr. Wilson suggested withdrawing his motion and taking the matter up at the next meeting.

- Mr. Kroner allowed Mr. Joseph Walsh to speak from the audience. Mr. Walsh commented that he deals with workforce housing proposals in Massachusetts and said instead of having their Attorney present they usually hire an affordable housing consultant to guide the Board. Mr. Wilson said that the Town's
- 325 Circuit Rider would probably serve the Board under that capacity.

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Ms. Pohl withdrew her seconded to the motion and Mr. Wilson withdrew his motion.

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Other Business

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NH Community Planning Grant Program -

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The Board received a copy of the application for the NH Community Planning Grant.

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Mr. Kroner called for a five minute recess.

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335 Mr. Kroner reconvened the meeting.

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338 Mr. Kroner recommended that the Board review the documents. He said it that it requires municipal 339 matches and the Board should wait to hear from Mr. Groth regarding the grant. The application 340 deadline is June 15, 2012.

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342 Dr. Arena said that the Board shouldn't delay it so much that we miss the deadline.

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Mr. Kroner would like more information before moving forward with it. He said he doesn't know how competitive the Town could be in a grant application when the Board is not really sure what they are getting.

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348 Mr. Wilson said he prepared a lot of grant applications in a short time, but he's not sure the Board 349 absolutely needs to apply for this at this point. He said that they will be competing with Nashua, 350 Concord, Rochester and Portsmouth. He didn't think the Board had time to prepare something for the 351 Rockingham Planning Commission to meet the deadline date.

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Ms. Pohl asked if the Board was going to follow their normal practice and have the Vice Chair, Chair the Work Sessions.

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Mr. Kroner thought it was a good idea and it's something they can make part of the Rules and Procedures.

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- Ms. Pohl moved and Dr. Arena seconded the motion to adopt the practice of the Vice Chair running the Work Sessions as a part of the Board's Rules and Procedures.
- The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (6-0).

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CIP Committee update -

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Mr. Wilson said the CIP Committee is meeting on Friday morning, May 18th at 8:15am, and hopefully the committee has reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan for the members to sign, and then it will be done, except that it doesn't have Dr. Azzi's report in it yet; that will be added to it.

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Mr. Wilson discussed the UNH t-square program that would include total reclamation of town roads costing four million dollars over a four year period. The Public Works Department's plan involves

resurfacing and maintenance of roads on a more frequent basis that would cost just under one million dollars over that same four year time period.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Code of Ethics passed at the May 8th Town Election and the Code of Ethics Committee no longer exist. Mr. Wilson said that it is recommended that the Chairs of the town boards and committees read the prologue at their first meetings.

Ms. Pohl asked if Mr. Wilson, as the Select Board's Representative to the Planning Board, would ask Mr. Fournier to ensure that all of the Boards and Committees are provided with a copy of the Code of Ethics and that they read the prologue, and that Mr. Fournier follow-up to make sure that it was done.

Mr. Wilson said that he will tell Mr. Fournier that each employee and elected official receives a copy and remind the Chairs that they should read the prologue, but he will not ask him to "follow-up" with each Board and Committee to see if it was done.

Other Business

Mr. Kroner said that he had no updates on the Master Plan. He commented that the Select Board adopted a "Junk Yard" policy on April 30, 2012.

Dr. Arena said that the fees are not included in the "junk yard" policy.

393 Mr. Wilson said the policy states that the fee is the maximum amount allowed by law.

The Board discussed getting the Code Enforcement Officer on Board. Mr. Wilson said that the role description for the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning and Zoning Administrator are done. They plan to work over the next year on getting all of the employee role descriptions done as well as the performance review process.

Minutes –

April 17, 2012 Work Session – Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Pohl seconded the motion to approve the April 17, 2012 Work Session Minutes.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (3 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions). Ms. Kohl,
Dr. Arena and Mr. Hornsby abstained because they were not present at the April 17, 2012 meeting.

May 1, 2012 – The Board was in receipt of Mr. Groth's proposed changes to the minutes and accepted them. Dr. Arena made a couple of changes.

408 Dr. Arena moved and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion to accept the May 1, 2012 Minutes as amended.

410 Mr. Wilson withdrew his second and Dr. Arena withdrew his motion.

Ms. Pohl had a change to the Minutes on line 75 to read "Ms. Pohl said that you can click through to any site on the web from any other site on the web".

Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Pohl seconded the motion to approve the May 1, 2012 minutes as amended.

The vote passed in favor of the motion (5 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention). Ms. Kohl abstained because she was not present at the May 1, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Pohl made a comment about Mr. Groth's written opinion regarding the 53-lot Post Road subdivision proposal, that, if it is complete, it should be noted that the opinion is tainted, because Mr. Groth has recused himself from the Post Road Subdivision proposal because of a conflict of interest.

Mr. Kroner said that the Board may want the opinion stricken from the record and request that Rockingham Planning Commission provide another opinion.

Mr. Wilson said that it is a "good point", but the Board should wait to discuss it when they reconvene the Design Review so the Applicant is aware of it.

Mr. Wilson said that Glenn Greenwood has been assigned to take Mr. Groth's place on all matters involving the Post Road Subdivision. He said that Mr. Greenwood has scheduled meetings in other towns on Tuesdays and was wondering if the Board would consider changing their meetings to Thursdays. It was a consensus of the Board not to change from Tuesday's to Thursdays. Mr. Wilson thought that maybe the RPC would consider hiring Jill Robinson as a consultant regarding this case; she used to be the Town's Circuit Rider and is very familiar with the Town.

Ms. Pohl reported to the Board that she went to Court on May 14th for the Adrianne Salomon v. Town of North Hampton Planning Board merits hearing regarding the Shane Smith subdivision. It was her opinion that the point Mr. Salomon made was that Pond Path bisected the "tail" on one of the lots so the "tail" could not be considered buildable and could not be counted as "uplands", and that he made a contention that the Board did not resolve the fact that Pond Path had no public access rights to it. Mr. Salomon said that the burden of proof is on the Applicant and the Town's Counsel advised the Planning Board to hire an archivist which they did not do. Ms. Pohl said that Mr. Salomon is filing something else with the Court and suspects it has something to do with the adverse possession piece. The Judge gave Mr. Salomon another week. Ms. Pohl said that Attorney Serge said he thought the Town would prevail.

- 447 Mr. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting without objection.
- 448 The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

450 Respectfully submitted,

452 Wendy V. Chase453 Recording Secretary

455 Approved July 17, 2012