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**Sandown Planning Board
Minutes
March 5, 2013**

Date: March 5, 2013

Place: Sandown Town Hall

Members Present: Matt Russell -Vice Chairman, Ed Mencis, Ernie Brown, Selectman Brenda Copp

Also Present: Town Engineer Steve Keach, Recording Secretary Andrea Cairns

Absent: Chairman Mark Traeger, Matthew Brown, James Devine – Ex-Officio, Steven Meisner, Jim Carroll

Opening: Mr. Russell opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Ms. Brenda Copp sat in for Mr. Devine so that the board could reach quorum. Ms. Copp stated she would sit in so the Board could have a quorum, but wasn't comfortable voting.

Correspondence

The Board received a letter from Attorney Gorrow regarding the Sandown vs. Peter Holmes petition. Attorney Gorrow filed a temporary stipulation preventing the sale of his home without the town's permission.

The Board received information from the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition regarding help with stormwater management.

The Board agreed to do the 2/19/13 minutes at the next meeting since they were short on members.

7:15 – Julie LaBranche – discussion regarding Master Plan

Ms. LaBranche handed out a revised population chapter. She suggested that the Board review those changes and approve them at the next meeting.

Ms. LaBranche handed out a second document with a summary of the survey results and feedback received from the community input session. She also included the existing future land use chapter noting it was very outdated and the community has seen a lot of changes since it was written.

She suggested the Board review the "Rural Community & Growth Issues" section and determine what should be added and deleted. Once that list is updated, they could go back to the survey feedback and see if there are any additional issues to include.

She questioned if the Board wanted to go through that list that evening. Mr. Russell noted that he would like to take advantage of Ms. LaBranche being there, but with only three regular members of the Board, he felt they should wait so they could gain input from the full Board. Mr. Mencis and Mr. Brown agreed.

46

47 Mr. Russell noted that the majority of people at the vision session felt they would love to
48 have a downtown village, but it doesn't seem possible. He would like to somehow
49 determine if they still felt that way. Ms. LaBranche noted she could come up with a
50 bulleted action list that they could use to move that topic forward. She also noted there
51 are several grant opportunities that could help fund the project.

52

53 Mr. Russell asked if she knew of any other towns that were similar to Sandown which
54 have grown to be more of a bedroom community without a town center. Ms. LaBranche
55 thought Stratham was similar and they were working towards creating a town center.

56

57 Mr. Russell thought it was interesting that a town center was never build given the train
58 station was right there. Ms. LaBranche thought that the station was likely located away
59 from the town center because there was probably industry or manufacturing near the
60 trails.

61

62 Ms. LaBranche noted that one way to promote a town center is to look at something other
63 than business as the catalyst. Utilize your environmental assets to create a reason to bring
64 people to the center and the business will follow to support it.

65

66 Ms. LaBranche suggested bringing in the historical society to determine what historic
67 assets they had back then to bring the community together.

68

69 Members discussed the changes to the population chapter. Everyone agreed the chapter
70 was complete and they could officially move the chapter forward.

71

72 Ms. LaBranche noted that the Future Land Use chapter would take a significant amount
73 of time. She suggested that once the chapter is finalized, they could post it on the website
74 and invite people in to a meeting to give feedback.

75

76 Ms. Copp noted it is always difficult to get people in to give feedback. They would likely
77 get people in who have always been interested in the master plan, but she doesn't know
78 how to spark interest in others.

79

80 Mr. Russell suggested thinking outside the box for ideas. He noted another group he's
81 involved in has a potluck dinner and it is very successful.

82

83 Ms. Copp suggested doing a survey at Old Home Days. Mr. Mencis suggested they could
84 do something at the fire department dinner. Ms. LaBranche thought that might be too late
85 in the year, but they could play off those ideas.

86

87 Ms. LaBranche suggested taking a bulleted list of the existing challenges and put them on
88 a large poster and set it up in the town hall and library and let people mark it up, put stars
89 on it and give their feedback.

90

91 Members agreed that whatever they did needed to be as easy as possible.

92 Members reviewed the language for the photo contest flyer, specifically a prize for
93 winning photos. They couldn't give a cash prize using taxpayer money. Ms. LaBranche
94 suggested hanging the winning picture in a place of prominence. She also suggested they
95 should add submission guidelines, such as digital files should be provided and they
96 should also provide printouts.

97

98 Members agreed that children could submit drawings as well. So it could state photos and
99 graphic images.

100

101 Ms. Copp suggested they could be posted on Channel 17 where people can view them
102 and vote on them.

103

104 **Website**

105 Ms. Cairns noted she would be meeting with the website developers to discuss what
106 needs to go on the planning page on the new website. She asked the Board for their input
107 on what they would like to see.

108

109 Mr. Russell asked if there could be an anonymous comments block or a spot asking for
110 feedback.

111

112 Mr. Mencis suggested posting a fee schedule.

113

114 Ms. Cairns asked if they would like their individual email addresses on there. Mr. Russell
115 felt that the entire board should address any issues so he was not comfortable with
116 individuals receiving emails.

117

118 Members agreed a short blurb about the town engineer and how he works with the town
119 would be beneficial. They also felt that an explanation of the town's relationship with
120 RPC and how we utilize them as a resource would be beneficial. Ms. Copp suggested
121 adding a list of what we have received in grant money from RPC.

122

123 **MOTION:** Mr. Mencis made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All
124 members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. MEETING ADJOURNED at
125 8:45 p.m.

126

127 Respectfully Submitted,

128



129

Andrea Cairns