

Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Benjamin Eddy Bldg., 6 South Killingly Road
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

A. Call to Order

Anthony Renzi called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

B. Roll Call

Planning Board Members: Warren Ducharme; Susan Joyce; David Paolissi; Anthony Renzi; George Sackal; Secretary, Hilary Downes-Fortune.

Excused: Mike Carpenter

Staff present: Michael Antonellis, Planner; Joanna Achille, Solicitor

Public present: None.

C. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 minutes. Mr. Ducharme made a motion; Mr. Paolissi seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0-1 (Mr. Sackal abstained since he was absent from the 8/17/22 meeting).

D. Pre-application Meeting—Major Subdivision, Danielson Pike –AP 14 Lot 19 Owner and Applicant Roman Catholic Bishop of Providence

Postponed until next meeting.

E. Comprehensive Plan—Public Hearing

Public hearing to discuss approval of the draft Comprehensive Plan (continued from 8/17/22)

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion. Ms. Downes-Fortune made a motion for The Foster Planning Board, having complied with all requirements of RIGL Section 45-22.2, approve the Town of Foster Comprehensive Plan 2022-2042;

WHEREAS Proper notice has been given regarding the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan pursuant to RIGL Section 45-22.2 -8;

WHEREAS A legal Advertisement was posted in the Valley Breeze on April 28, 2022, May 5, 2022 and May 12, 2022;

WHEREAS The Planning Board provided a URL link within the advertisement to access the draft Comprehensive Plan for public review;

WHEREAS The Draft Plan that was posted onto the Town's website detailed all changes that were made to the draft throughout the public hearing process;

- WHEREAS The Planning Board conducted public hearings on the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan on June 1, 2022, July 6, 2022, August 17, 2022 and September 7, 2022;
- WHEREAS The Planning Board received public input throughout the public hearing process and have included comments into the draft as appropriate;
- WHEREAS The Planning Board conducted two community surveys which informed the contents of the Comprehensive Plan;
- WHEREAS The Planning Department submitted a draft Comprehensive Plan to the Division of Statewide Planning for comments on April 30, 2019;
- WHEREAS The Division of Statewide Planning provided comments in a letter dated July 15, 2019;
- WHEREAS The Planning Department will provide a letter with the submittal of the revised, approved Comprehensive Plan that details responses to the Division of Statewide Planning's comments;
- WHEREAS The Planning Board acknowledges that the approved Comprehensive Plan does not take effect until approved by the Division of Statewide Planning.

Discussion:

- At the last meeting changes were made to the Housing section; the updated Draft Comprehensive Plan has been posted online for review.
- Mr. Sackal stated that in the Energy section, paragraph 2, we had previously discussed removing the word “major” as it pertains to solar installations as it conflicts with the State’s definition of Major Solar Installations (40 MW). Mr. Antonellis agreed that this was correct and he would make that correction in the Plan.

Mr. Paolissi seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

F. Amendment to Zoning Ordinance: Table of Uses Section 38-191; Public and Semi-Public Uses #7

Mr. Antonellis explained that the numbering in column 1 of the Table of Uses was incorrect, and he also proposed that Town Highway Department and Police Department should be grouped with Town of Foster government buildings, not state or federal buildings.

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion. Mr. Sackal made a motion to amend the Town of Foster Zoning Ordinance Article IV, Section 38-191.—Table of Uses, by striking “and town highway department or police department” from Use #7 and correcting the numerals in column 1. The Planning Board finds this change to be consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Joyce seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

G. Striping of Old Plainfield Pike

Mr. Renzi said that he added this item to the agenda because Old Plainfield Pike had been chip-sealed recently but was not repainted. He said he contacted the Foster DPW and was

told they don't stripe roads because they have neither the budget nor the time. Mr. Renzi said that he spoke with the RI DOT Director Peter Alviti about this matter and was told that if an accident occurs on the road due to lack of striping the town could be held responsible. He said Mr. Alviti told him that the Town Council can appeal to the state in writing and the state DOT would come out and paint the road.

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion. Mr. Sackal made a motion to recommend that the Town Council send a letter to the RI DOT requesting the state paint new stripes on Old Plainfield Pike. Ms. Downes-Fortune seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

H. Foster Planning Board Community Survey and Raffle

Mr. Antonellis explained that survey was now closed and about 410 residents had responded. He said Survey Sparrow provided an auto-generated report of the results, but he felt it would be good to draft a narrative to accompany the report. Mr. Sackal and Ms. Downes-Fortune agreed to draft the narrative, after which the Planning Board will officially release the document. For the raffle, Ms. Joyce suggested we use an online randomizer to select five names from the list of respondents. We agreed that Mr. Antonellis will do this at the next meeting in order to select five winners of the gift cards purchased as incentives for the survey.

NEW BUSINESS—FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

- Mr. Renzi stated that there was ARPA money that was going to be used for an online Zoom account to enable the public to access public meetings, but the Town Council decided not to use the money for that purpose and instead chose to spend it elsewhere. He said he would like to add an agenda item to the next meeting for the Planning Board to draft a letter to Town Council stating that the Zoom account would be beneficial and increase public participation in meetings.
- Mr. Sackal stated that he has a friend who would like to build/open a BMX facility in town for kids, possibly as a non-profit. Mr. Antonellis suggested Mr. Sackal have his friend contact him directly.
- Mr. Ducharme mentioned the new state law clarifying “accessory dwelling units”.

I. Adjournment

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ducharme made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Downes-Fortune, Secretary