



PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI
Wednesday: January 4, 2017
7:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Carey called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Joseph Carey (Chair); Helen Hardy (Secretary); Michael Carpenter; Thomas Mercier; and Ronald Cervasio.

Board Members Excused: Sergio Spaziano.

Staff Present: Juliana King (Planner) and Tim Gallogly (Solicitor).

Public and Applicants Present: Dave Westcott and Ben Delaney (Mason & Associates); and Denise DiFranco, Chris Stone, and Michael Dillon (Town Council).

M. New Business

Discussion / Action

1) Elections

Ms. Hardy nominated Mr. Carey to continue as Chair. Second by Mr. Mercier. Approved 6 – 0.

Mr. Mercier nominated Mr. Sparks as Vice-Chair. Second by Mr. Carpenter. Approved 6 – 0. Mr. Sparks accepted the position.

Mr. Mercier nominated Ms. Hardy to continue as Secretary. Second by Mr. Carpenter. Approved 6 – 0. Ms. Hardy accepted the position.

C. Approval of Minutes

Discussion/Action

December 7, 2016

Motion by Mr. Mercier to approve the minutes of December 7, 2016. Second by Mr. Sparks. Approved 5 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Cervasio abstaining).

D. Correspondence

Discussion/Action

Mr. Carey acknowledged the contribution made by former Vice-Chair Julia Parmentier, calling out her many years of service and noted that her expertise will be missed.

Mr. Mercier said that Ms. Parmentier should be recognized for putting in so much time and effort.

Ms. Hardy will draw up an official letter from the Board to send to Ms. Parmentier expressing these sentiments.

E. Board Members' Reports

Discussion/Action

1) Land Trust

Mr. Carpenter stated that the Land Trust meeting was rescheduled to the following week.

2) Conservation Commission

No report was available at this time.

L. Continued Business

Discussion/Action

1) Road/Bridge Plan update

Ms. Hardy remarked that it looked as though the revisions discussed at the October meeting had been implemented, and highlighted a few road name spelling errors. Mr. Sparks recalled discussion on landowners completing road improvements on their own and the Town accepting gravel in those cases, and Ms. King noted that the 2009 ordinance allows such application so the Road/Bridge Plan update is consistent as written. Mr. Cervasio suggested including the cost differences between gravel and paving, and Mr. Sparks said the general idea is given in the Plan already as well as a cost/benefit analysis. Mr. Mercier pointed out that it would come up during budget meetings, too. Mr. Cervasio stated that it would be interesting to see how much

it would cost for all roads to be paved as opposed to individual roads each year. Mr. Mercier emphasized that this is a plan, and hard and fast figures shouldn't be included. Mr. Carpenter brought up unimproved vs. abandoned roads, commenting that including a designation for unimproved roads is important because they would need to be known if the Town were to move forward with abandoning them in the future.

Motion by Mr. Mercier to submit the Road/Bridge Plan update to the Town Council for approval.
Second by Mr. Cervasio. Mr. Cervasio then asked if the roads were considered assets, and Ms. King replied that roads are indeed listed in the audit. Approved 6 -- 0.

N. Comprehensive Plan Update

Discussion/Action

1) Review First Draft with Consultant

David Westcott, consultant from Mason & Associates working on the Comp Plan update, stated that this draft is the first shot per the contract. He recognized and sought to honor the years' worth of work done by the Board, and stated that data has been updated, new state requirements addressed, and all projections carried twenty years out.

Discussion ensued on topics such as the Town-wide survey, rural/suburban community, anticipated vs. desired growth, the Youth Athletic Field, consultant comments in the draft, a new police station, LESO and Police/DPW, agriculture and economic opportunities, maps, Land Trust acquisitions, rare species, historic barns, stone walls, local folklore, ruins of mills, scenic roads, signs, current zoning, and potential development standards.

As not quite half of the chapters had been vetted, there was general agreement to send substantive comments to the consultant through the Planner and to pick back up at the February 15, 2017 meeting.

O. Future Agenda Items

Discussion

- 1) FY 2017-2018 CIP
- 2) RIDEM Farmland Access Program
- 3) Presentation & Discussion re: Accessory Businesses on Farms/Forests
- 4) Full Meeting of Town Boards & Commissions

Mr. Carey added Liaison Appointments, for the 1/18/2017 meeting.

P. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy, Secretary