

Present: Alan Putnam; Patty Chaffee; Keith Weed; Richard Carter; Stacy Hassett

Alternates: Lenny Ostasiewski

Absent: Alissa Bascom

Staff: Liz Emerson

Public Present: James Carter, Bill Rescsanski, Randy Marcotte

Alan Putnam called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of minutes of 4/05/2023:

Motion by Mr. Weed to accept the April 4, 2023 minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Carter.
5-0-0, motion approved.

There was discussion regarding appointing Bill Rescsanski as an alternate to the Planning Board. Ms. Chaffee asked if a letter of interest was going to be provided. Mr. Rescsanski stated that he planned to submit a letter. Mr. Putnam asked if there are other candidates for the position. Ms. Chaffee stated that one other letter of interest has been submitted.

Motion by Mr. Weed to appoint Bill Rescsanski as an alternate to the Planning Board, seconded by Ms. Chaffee.
5-0-0, motion approved.

Applications: None

Continued Business: None

New Business:

1. **Eversource Tree Trimming – Borough Road**

Randy Marcotte, arborist with Eversource Energy, stated that, as Borough Road is a scenic road, permission is needed from the Town and landowners for tree trimming. Most of Borough Road is outside the scenic road right-of-way, but a few sections of it are paved and require this permission process. The intention is to trim 8" to the side, 15" above, and 10" below. Nothing over 4" in diameter can be trimmed without an additional permission process through the Town. All brush seen along the roadside appeared to be 4" in diameter or less. Trimming is important for reliability in emergency situations. The offroad section of Borough Road contains a large amount of dead trees that could be removed as part of the trim spec. If landowners do not respond to the information sent to them within 45-days, Eversource has the right to trim full-spec along that section of roadway, as long as this item is approved by the Board. If approval is not given by the Board, Eversource has no right to trim trees along these properties.

Motion by Ms. Chaffee to approve the cutting along the scenic road as proposed, seconded by Mr. Weed.
5-0-0, motion approved.

2. **Master Plan – Economic Development Chapter discussion**

Mr. Putnam explained that the Board will discuss the Economic Development Chapter, specifically some of the recommendations from the Task Force in the Implementation Chapter.

The Board discussed how Charlestown is marketing itself for clean energy and information technology. Ms. Emerson stated that IT and solar companies have reached out to the Town and been welcomed. Multiple solar companies have proposed projects but not gone further; it may be up to the Town to continue to reach out to these companies.

Ms. Chaffee stated that she would like to consider what the Town has to offer for incoming companies. She noted that some residents have formed a Community Power group to discuss potential future items.

The Board discussed how to increase out of Town tourism and related attractions. Ms. Emerson stated that the Fort would like to reestablish the Hassam House as a Visitor's Center. Funding is not yet available for this project, but grants are being applied for.

The Board discussed the implementation item regarding establishing an Events Committee. Ms. Emerson stated that she does not believe this is moving forward.

The Board discussed enforcing zoning regulations. Ms. Emerson stated that she has approximately 18 current zoning enforcement items open.

Mr. Putnam noted other implementation items such as seek CEDA's assistance in developing properties north of CEDA Park. The Board may want to consider a more open dialogue with CEDA on this item. The Board could also consider launching an ad campaign for the Town.

Administration:

Mr. Putnam requested an update on the enforcement issues on Ox Brook Road. Ms. Emerson stated that she does not have much enforcement power for junk items in yards. One house has an overabundance of vehicles that are not road-worthy, and she does have enforcement on that item. She has asked the Select Board for aid on this enforcement item but has not yet heard back.

Communications:

a) Board – Master Plan Discussion

None at this time.

b) Public Participation:

None at this time.

Ms. Emerson noted that the Planning Board procedures have not been updated since 2015 and she would like to work on updating these. A public hearing will be needed for these changes.

Motion by Mr. Weed to adjourn at 7:38pm, seconded by Ms. Chaffee.

5-0-0, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristan Patenaude

Recording Secretary