

Present: Terry Spilsbury - Chair; Doug Neill; Jeff Lessels - Ex Officio; Alan Putnam; Sharon Francis; Dick Lincourt

Alternates: Jeremy Wood;

Zoom: Gabe Bailey; Patty Chaffee; Bill Rescsanski

Public: Alissa Bascom

Staff Present: Liz Emerson; Sarah Davis - Secretary

Terry Spilsbury called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Minutes of the meeting of 2/16/21: Changes: Dick Lincourt: p.1, para. 2, line 1 insert "to review" between "are" and "the", p.1, para. 6, delete this paragraph and replace with "Dick Lincourt asked which Charlestown roads were designated as "Scenic Roads". It was agreed that there are several and Liz Emerson will check into the list, the purpose being to make this information more available and more broadly known."; Terry Spilsbury p.1, para. 1, line 3 replace "asked" with called upon" and replace "to" with "who then", p.1, para. 9 change "Town of Charlestown Sign Regulations" to "Signs 8.6", p.2, para. 2, line 2 change "the sign is" to "signs in place more than 2 weeks should be", p.2, para. 2, line 3 change "permanent" to ""permanent", thus requiring a permit" p.2, para. 4, line 2 insert "for longer than 2 weeks between "permitted" and "until", p.3, para 1, line 1 change "the moratorium" to "a moratorium", p.3, para. 1, line 3 change "the moratorium" to "a moratorium"; Sharon Francis: p.1, para. 3 Insert "Transportation Chapter Master Plan Presentation" in the line immediately before "Questions", p.1, para. 9 add "Sign Ordinance Review" immediately before this paragraph.

Motion by Dick Lincourt to approve the minutes of the meeting of 2/16/21 as amended.

Roll call vote: Doug Neill, Jeff Lessels and Gabe Bailey abstained, all others in favor, minutes approved.

Terry Spilsbury moved the meeting to the presentation from the Education Task Force and called upon Alan Putnam to present the Education chapter for the Master Plan. Alan Putnam introduced Alissa Bascom who will co-present the chapter.

Education Chapter Master Plan Presentation.

Questions:

Sharon Francis asked for an explanation on the Site Based Committee. Alan Putnam and Alissa Bascom explained that the Site Based Committee was established in the early 2000s at the recommendation of the School District administration to encourage involvement by the community. A short discussion ensued on different experiences of the committee with it historically being a committee that did not appear to react to input.

Terry Spilsbury asked for an explanation on West Central Services. Liz Emerson responded that this is an organization based in Newport that specializes in working with families. Jeremy Wood confirmed that the organization works with local school districts.

Sharon Francis asked about staffing levels for the community education component of the proposal. Alan Putnam responded that being efficient with funding a combined Education/Rec Director to oversee a group of volunteers would ensure full and complete communication with the town on what resources are available.

Dick Lincourt asked about the transient population in the Town of Charlestown and the impact of this on the education system in Charlestown, it was agreed that this data should be included in the chapter.

Bill Rescsanski asked about the Select Board and the Town of Charlestown working with the State to promote items to assist the Town of Charlestown. Sharon Francis responded by suggesting Bill Rescsanski flesh out a document suggesting the structure of the group he is suggesting and proposing this at a Select Board meeting.

Dick Lincourt suggested clearly stating Charlestown's allotment of the FMRSD budget as a part of the statistics.

Sharon Francis asked about reducing the cost of education to the Town of Charlestown without sacrificing the education of the students. Alan Putnam responded that reducing the number of school buildings in Charlestown will enhance the education of the children whilst reducing the cost. It was clarified that this decision would be a part of the budget discussion for the Fall Mountain Regional School District. It was further suggested that this is something that should be initiated at a Site Based meeting.

Terry Spilsbury thanked Alan Putnam and Alissa Bascom for their presentation.

Liz Emerson handed out two memos with details on Mobile Home counts in the Town of Charlestown with a second memo and map showing the scenic roads in the town.

Liz Emerson spoke about changing Ordinances regarding mobile homes and NHMA confirmed that it is not possible to prohibit mobile homes. Terry Spilsbury asked Liz Emerson to compile a memo with all the details from NHMA regarding mobile homes.

Terry Spilsbury asked Liz Emerson for updates on current actions.

Liz Emerson confirmed that the parties involved in the project on Sullivan Street are parting ways; this is hearsay at this point.

Cobb Brothers - the banner has been removed.

Real Deal Deli - there has been no communication as yet. A discussion ensued on the Zoning Ordinance for signs. Terry Spilsbury asked to go on record as finding the Reel Deal Deli sign offensive as visual pollution which he feels is a problem. No agreement was reached on action to be taken.

Breakneck Hill - all living beings have been removed from the property. Questions regarding the removal of the camper have been asked and no response has been received.

Alan Putnam made a motion for the Planning Board to publicly support the Water Proposal and the Broadband proposal on the warrant article for the vote on March 11th, seconded by Jeff Lessels.

Sharon Francis asked about alternatives for the proposed water interconnection project, Jeff Lessels explained the primary alternatives and their relative merits and pitfalls.

Terry Spilsbury asked Jeff Lessels and Sharon Francis if there is a precedent for the Planning Board advocating for Warrant Articles for the town vote. The response was that there is no recollection of this happening in the past. Terry Spilsbury suggested modifying the motion to state that the Planning Board urges your vote in support of Article 2, Solar Ordinance Amendment; Article 3 Water Interconnection Project; Article 4 Broadband Internet. Alan Putnam and Jeff Lessels confirmed their agreement to the amendment to the motion

Gabe Bailey proposed separating the different articles.

Dick Lincourt stated that the Planning Board should not set a precedent by supporting warrant articles. Gabe Bailey agreed with Dick Lincourt's comment.

Terry Spilsbury asked the mover and seconder to withdraw the motion. Alan Putnam and Jeff Lessels agreed to withdraw the motion.

Terry Spilsbury commented on Sharon Francis not running for re-election for the Planning Board, this being her final meeting as a member of the Planning Board and thanked her for her service.

Motion to adjourn by Sharon Francis, seconded by Doug Neill, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 9.45.

Sarah Davis
Secretary