

Present: Patty Chaffee - Chair; Gabe Bailey - Vice Chair; Jeremy Wood - Ex-Officio; Alissa Bascom; Dick Lincourt; Alan Putnam

Absent: Doug Neill

Alternates: Rosie Smith-Hull; Keith Weed; Sharon Francis; Robert Meier

Public: Roger Thibodeau

Patty Chaffee called the meeting to order at 7.15 and invited Rosie Smith-Hull to sit for Doug Neill.

Minutes of the meeting of May 18th: changes: Alan Putnam: p.1, para. 6, line 1 add "attorney for AT&T" after "Will Dodge"; Dick Lincourt: p.2, para. 4 line 1 insert "of Adjustment" after "Zoning Board"; p.2, para. 4, line 4 add the following sentences at the end of the paragraph: "Dick Lincourt questioned if the Planning Board had the authority to grant the waivers. Patty Chaffee and Liz Emerson confirmed that it did."

Motion by Gabe Bailey to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Jeremy Wood, all in favor, motion approved.

Applications: there are no new applications for this meeting and nothing in the pipeline for the next meeting.

Master Plan:

Land use - Dick Lincourt confirmed that this Task Force will be meeting this week, they are 1 to 2 weeks away from completion – presentation of this chapter is scheduled for the 2nd meeting in July.

Liz Emerson confirmed that Jeff Lessels has been working on Regional Concerns, this chapter has been scheduled for the 1st meeting in a July.

Patty Chaffee asked for any new business and opened the meeting to the Public.

Roger Thibodeau spoke about the car dealership in South Charlestown and the very specific restrictions that were placed on the business as to the activities allowed. At this current time the land is a mess. This is the business which is trading as 12A Auto. Patty Chaffee stated that there is a new owner of the Mobile Home Park and they are therefore the Landlord. The Planning Board will reach out to them to request that this issue be addressed. Other areas in the Mobile Home Park are already being addressed. Liz Emerson will pull the Site Plan Review from the file.

Sharon Francis asked about the lot off Route 12 on Lovers Lane before the entrance to the Morways Mobile Home Park, this appears to be a storage lot and asked if this lot is in conformance with the Site Plan Regulations. Liz Emerson confirmed that this was approved as a sales lot, Liz Emerson will check the file and the agreed stipulations.

Sharon Francis also asked about the lot just after the yellow light to Unity Stage Road, what is being carried out on this property and whether this is in conformance. Dick Lincourt stated that rock crushing operations were approved.

Sharon Francis asked about signs which are not in compliance with regulations, she further asked about the comment on the internet regarding signs on private property being the owners right. Patty Chaffee confirmed that any complaints concerning political signs need to be addressed to the Attorney General's office as the town does not have any local authority over political signs. Other, non-political signs are being addressed, it is agreed that these do not belong and are being removed.

Sharon Francis asked about the Highway Beautification Act and specifically Bill Board Controls and private property. This case was referred to the Solicitor General who stated that if the Bill Board is setup to face the private property then there is no public jurisdiction but if it is facing the highway then it is a matter for public purview. It was clarified by Patty Chaffee that this comment is in relation to political signs. Jeremy Wood read out specific wording of the Supreme Court ruling of October 1998. It was clarified by Liz Emerson that the town has no authority to communicate with residents regarding political signs. A discussion ensued on Freedom of Speech and the end result was an agreement that citizen's concerns on this topic need to be addressed to the Attorney General's Office as per the NH RSAs.

Master Plan:

Liz Emerson spoke about the Transportation Chapter which the Task Force has reviewed and made changes to. There is a specific question regarding the evaluation of a cycle path to the west side of Main Street, this has been referred to Steve Smith and Liz Emerson is waiting for a response.

Patty Chaffee asked about the statement concerning electric bicycles sharing sidewalks: currently bicycles are not permitted on sidewalks in Charlestown. This will be reviewed and edited after review of the Side Walk Ordinance.

Roger Thibodeau asked about the Springfield Airport not being mentioned in the airports section. This section will be edited.

Liz Emerson asked for any further comments and or edits to be emailed to her.

Sharon Francis asked about the list of intersections and the comment that there is not enough evidence for reconfiguration at this time, she asked for specific criterion to be included in this statement. Patty Chaffee responded that the Chief of Police has confirmed that there are not enough casualties or deaths to warrant an investigation. Liz Emerson will look into the State Regulations.

Patty Chaffee asked what value the bike path has to bringing people into town, specifically what is the added value. Gabe Bailey responded that bike paths generally bring value to the town, specifically with connectivity. A discussion ensued on different options for a bike path through town. It was agreed that this section should be edited and reviewed in the bigger picture of wider area bike paths.

Liz Emerson - updates for the Planning Board:

Borough Road camp sites - this area is being cleaned out, insurance paperwork is being processed which will take some time. A Site Plan Review will be submitted at the appropriate time.

A temporary Sign Permit has been granted for the Town Wide Yard Sale Signs.

Liz Emerson has reached out to the New Hampshire Building Code Review Board concerning mobile homes and whether it is permissible for the town of Charlestown to adopt one provision that is stricter than the building code - specifically that any new mobile homes should not be older than 10 years - she is waiting to hear back.

119 Sullivan Street - this property has never been deemed uninhabitable or condemned, it is currently owned by Jonathan Nelson. The town has never taken ownership of this building.

The Building Inspector is trying to contact George Martin to inspect the property at 32 Hastings Drive, this is in progress.

Antenna Tower, SBA tower attorneys are putting the agreement into a final format, the Select Board is willing to sign the agreement in its current form.

Dick Lincourt asked if any communication has been received from Revs. Nothing has been received, Liz Emerson will be following up with them.

Patty Chaffee asked about the editing Task Force. Liz Emerson confirmed that everything is moving forward, the Transportation Chapter is close to being a final draft. The Natural Resources chapter will be sent back out to the Task Force and edits will be reviewed. The next Chapter for review will be population. In future, once this review of the Master Plan has been completed, chapters will be reviewed on an annual basis to avoid the need for a full overhaul. Dick Lincourt asked about the Vision Chapter: Liz Emerson responded that she has started this and will complete this with the responses received to the 2020 questionnaires.

Patty Chaffee asked for any other business: Matt Blanc will attend the second Planning Board meeting in July after the CEDA meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Dick Lincourt seconded by Gabe Bailey, meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Sarah Davis
Secretary