

# July 5, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Charles, Ms. Gager, Mr. Frank, Mr. Rimsky and Mrs. Roberts

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mrs. Braverman, Mr. Carey and Mr. Fowlkes

STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. Shade

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Sears

## REGULAR MEETING

Mrs. Roberts called the regular meeting to order at 7:32PM and seated the members. She acknowledged the three alternates who were present and welcomed Mrs. Braverman and Mr. Carey as new alternates on the commission.

### Consideration of the Minutes

MOTION: To accept the 6/6/06 Regular Meeting minutes as written. By Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Rimsky and passed 5-0.

MOTION: To accept the 6/19/06 Special Meeting minutes as written. By Mr. Charles, seconded by Mr. Frank and passed 5-0.

MOTION: To add subsequent business not already included on the agenda. By Mr. Charles, seconded by Ms. Gager and passed 5-0.

### Pending Application

#### **Potter /253 Old Litchfield Road /2 Lot Subdivision**

Mr. Charles recused himself from this discussion as he is involved with Potter Farm.

Mr. Fairbairn told the commission that he did not have any new drawings to submit because Brian Neff had been out of town. He said he expected to have all his information together for the meeting next month.

The members briefly discussed this application. They had walked the property in June. Mrs. Roberts commented it would be helpful for the new members to go have a look at the property before the next meeting.

### New Application

#### **Scenic Road Designation for Rabbit Hill Road**

The commission looked over the pictures of Rabbit Hill Road received 7/5/06. Mr. Charles read the Review for completeness by Janet Hill, Land Use Coordinator, dated 6/26/06.

Mrs. Roberts thought the members should schedule a time to go look at Rabbit Hill Road. Mr. Charles suggested waiting until the application is complete. Mrs. Roberts said she would call Ms. Condon and request that the file be complete by the August meeting so the members would be ready to take a vote in September.

Mr. Carey asked if there was a mandatory referral to the town of Warren. Mrs. Roberts said they did not

do that with Nettleton Hollow or West Morris Roads, but she would call Dan McGuinness and ask him.

## Other Business

### Depot Study

Mr. Sears was invited to join the members at the table.

Mrs. Roberts read a letter from Mrs. Joan Talbot suggesting that the center plantings be left out of the diagonal parking plan for the Depot. She felt the plantings would be difficult for people to negotiate with a market cart. Mr. Rimsky commented this is nothing compared to distances for most supermarket parking areas. Mrs. Braverman said there would probably be cut-through areas for pedestrians. Mrs. Roberts said it's hard for people to visualize. Since the amount of blacktop is being extended, having a narrow row of trees softens the whole area. Mr. Fowlkes agreed; the trees also will provide shade.

Mr. Charles noted that business owners in the Depot are working together to help solve the parking problem. Mr. Rimsky commented on how dangerous it is to pull out onto River Road because the cars parked behind the post office and market stick out so far. He said businesses could ask their staff to park someplace else. He also cited the bank and the food market as problem areas, but said people could go past the Art Association to park. After some discussion, Mr. Sears asked how these problems could be solved. He wondered if a special blue ribbon commission should be formed to implement a plan. Mr. Charles suggested Wilbur Smith should be involved.

Mr. Rimsky thought Mr. Charles had a good point. Someone from Wilbur Smith should be at the special meetings in August to answer questions from the public. They are already invested in this project. Mrs. Roberts said she thought the Zoning Commission was going to ask Wilbur Smith to review the parking problem in the Depot. She will contact David Owen.

Mr. Sears said he would like to have a new name for the Old Town Garage. Mr. Charles thought they should find out who the original owners were and perhaps use their name. After some discussion, it was decided to call it Riverfront Property.

The commission discussed how to handle the special August meetings. Mr. Sears said they should choose a moderator who could keep the meetings on track; a good process person. It was decided that it might be viewed as a conflict of interest to have a selectman or member of a commission to act as moderator. Several nominations were put forward, but the choice was narrowed down to three; Bill Bixby, Dan Sherr and Dave Werkhoven. Mrs. Roberts said it would not be necessary for Planning Commission members to get involved in any discussions at the meetings, but they might be needed for clarification.

Mr. Fowlkes, Ms. Gager and Mr. Rimsky were appointed to a subcommittee. They will hold a special meeting on Friday, July 7, 2006, at 10:15AM in the Land Use Meeting Room to select a moderator and determine a procedure for the special meetings on August 19 and August 25. A special meeting memo will be posted with the Town Clerk.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. By Mr. Frank.

Mrs. Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:55PM.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha T. Shade, Secretary