

November 12, 2013

7:30 Upper Level Mtg Room

Members Present: Ms. Roberts, Mr. Frank, Mr. Rimsky

Members Absent: Ms. Jahnke, Ms. Gager

Alternates Present: Mr. Carey

Alternates Absent: Ms. Bishop-Wrabel

Staff Present: Ms. White, Ms. Hill

Also Present: Mr. Bedini

Ms. Roberts, Chair called the Meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Seated: Ms. Roberts, Mr. Rimsky, Mr. Frank, Mr. Carey, Alt.

Plan of Conservation and Development:

Ms. Roberts suggested that the Plan of Conservation and Development be discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. Hill recommended that the commissioners consider whether they want the revised POCD to be a firm plan and a guide for the future of the Town of Washington or more of a “wish list” of items to be considered. To the extent possible, she feels that the POCD should recommend specific action, rather than recommending that action be “considered.” She feels that the language in the draft is not as concise and direct as the Planning Commission has discussed during this revision process.

Ms. Hill stated that she had received an edited version of Chapter 2: Demographics & Housing prepared by Wayne Hileman. Copies were distributed to the commissioners so that they might compare the edited version with the Milone & MacBroom October 2013 draft. Mr. Hileman had suggested both format and text modifications in the presentation to increase the readability and impact of the POCD without changing the basic thrust of the content. He has offered his editing services to the Commission on terms to be agreed.

The commissioners agreed to consider such editing process. Mr. Rimsky stated that the revised POCD should be neater, cleaner and more concise in order to engage the interest and participation of Town residents. He emphasized that the POCD should be made into a useful document for the Town. The commissioners discussed the benefits of retaining a local person, familiar with the Town, for such a purpose.

It was the consensus of the commissioners that a special meeting with Mr. Hileman should be scheduled to discuss the editing of the current draft. Subject to availability of the commissioners and Mr. Hileman, the meeting will be scheduled on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:30 pm.

Ms. Hill distributed her comments on a portion of the draft of the Action Agendas.

There was a brief discussion regarding the public hearing that would be scheduled to present the draft of the updated POCD, and to receive feedback and answer questions concerning the

document.

Mr. Frank discussed deadline dates for the final draft and the commissioners concluded that February 15 should be the deadline in order to meet the statutory time requirements for adopting the updated POCD.

Consideration of the Minutes:

The commissioners considered the minutes of the regularly scheduled October 1, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting.

Motion:

to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2013 as submitted, by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed by 4-0 vote.

The commissioners considered the minutes of the October 1, 2013 Planning Commission Special Meeting.

Ms. Roberts asked for clarification of the 2nd bullet point on page 3. Ms. Gager was not present to discuss her comments. The commissioners briefly discussed the Action Agendas and how the goals relate to the various Town Commissions.

Corrections:

Page 3, 4th bullet point, 1st sentence should read: Mr. Frank assumed that Milone and MacBroom considers the current draft to be the final draft and in their view any change requested would be an additional cost.

Motion:

to approve the Special Planning Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2013 as amended, by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed by 4-0 vote.

New Applications:

There were no new applications to discuss.

Other Business:

Plan of Conservation and Development:

See above

Bryan Memorial Plaza Improvements:

Mr. Rimsky stated that he has not attended any meetings for the Plaza Improvement Committee and, to his knowledge; no meetings have been held or scheduled.

The commissioners were concerned that the plans appeared to be proceeding without input from the Planning Commission. The Depot Study had made proposals for Plaza improvements, the 2003 POCD had recommended a septic feasibility study, and the Commission may have other suggestions that should be considered before the project advances.

The commissioners urged Mr. Rimsky, as the Commission's appointed representative to the Plaza

Improvement Committee, to inform the Selectmen that the Planning Commission wants to be more involved early on in the process, rather than after all the planning is done. Mr. Rimsky agreed to write to the Board of Selectmen to advise it of Planning's concerns.

Miscellaneous:

Mr. Rimsky discussed meeting with the head of a local school who wished to discuss the school's plan for the future.

The commissioners agreed that Mr. Rimsky's attending the requested meeting would be appropriate and asked that he report to the commission following such discussion.

Communications:

10/18/13 Correspondence from CT Siting Council scheduling a public hearing:

Ms. Hill stated that she emailed a notice to everyone stating that the CT Siting Council would be conducting a balloon test at the Town Garage Site on Blackville Road at 2pm on December 3, 2013. The public hearing will take place at 3pm in Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, CT. There will be a break and the public hearing will resume at 7pm. Attendees are encouraged to put their comments and questions in writing.

Administrative

Ms. Hill recommended that the commissioners consider whom they may designate as Chairman when Ms. Roberts' term ends in December. She noted that the draft of the Planning Commission calendar is due in December and the Commission may want to consider some adjustments in meeting dates.

Adjournment:

Motion: to adjourn at 9:20 by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Rimsky.

Ms. Roberts adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

SUBMITTED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL:

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk