**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Planning Commission**

**Minutes**

**October 7, 2015**

***Minutes are subject to the approval of the Planning Commission.***

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sarah Gager, Richard Carey, Paul Frank, Susan Jahnke, Dimitri Rimsky.

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Tony Bedini.

**ALTERNATES ABSENT:** Erica Ryland, Wayne Hileman.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mary Anne Greene, Acting Clerk

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Sarah Gager called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and seated members, Dick Carey, Paul Frank, Susan Jahnke, Dimitri Rimsky, and Sarah Gager.
2. **Privilege of the Floor:**

* **Brian Neff** attended this evening’s meeting to present preliminary plans for the proposed Ingrassia subdivision that would have considerable frontage on Bee Brook Road. There would be 6 lots ranging from 5 – 15 acres. Part of the project would have a “cluster appearance”. The plan has been approved by Inland Wetlands and is pending a Health approval. Mr. Neff explained this is a “Fee-in-lieu of open space” proposal and that he had met with the Conservation Commission which had no objection to this type of proposal. He would like to submit a formal application for a subdivision at the Planning Commission’s November meeting. Sarah Gager suggested a site visit be scheduled, along with the Conservation Commission, as soon as possible.

1. **Consideration of the Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To accept the minutes of the September 2, 2015 meeting of the Planning Commission. By Paul Frank, seconded by Susan Jahnke and unanimously approved.

1. **Other Business:**

* **MOTION:** To add subsequent business not already on the agenda – to enter into Executive Session, following Item V on the Agenda, to update the Commission on pending litigation. By Paul Frank, seconded by Dimitri Rimsky and unanimously approved.
* **A. Plaza Improvement Update:** Dimitri Rimsky reported the Plaza Committee (of which he is a member) had met with TPA Design Group. A timeline for the project was distributed. Work by TPA is still in the preliminary stages. Survey work continues as well as sketching and test wells. TPA hopes to present preliminary drawings at their next meeting. Dimitri also reported that Planning Commission member, Erica Ryland, had also attended the meeting and had asked questions regarding how the grant funds were to be spent and what would be included beyond the Plaza. The importance of thinking beyond the Plaza and keeping future plans for the Depot in mind throughout the process was also discussed at the meeting. Mr. Rimsky feels there should be public meetings held prior to the approval of a final plan. Tony Bedini brought up the fact that the maps that outline the area for this project (which are available in the Selectmen’s Office) do not include River Road. Mr. Bedini and Mr. Rimsky stressed the importance of including River Road – it’s entrance from Route 47 and the Plaza – being extremely important in any planning for the Plaza. Sarah Gager requested that the Selectmen’s Office forward a copy of the Agreement with TPA to the Planning Commission prior to its next meeting.
* **B.** **Plan of Conservation and Development:**

1. **Economic Development Subcommittee Report:** Chairman Sarah Gager asked if the Economic Development Advisory Committee had been appointed. Acting Clerk, Mary Anne Greene, explained the makeup of the Committee as approved by the Board of Selectmen in July, and explained that all appointments had not yet been made. Ms. Gager requested the Planning Commission be kept informed as appointments were made. Mr. Rimsky and Mr. Bedini explained that ten development subject areas of interest had been identified and groups of interested volunteers in Town have been formed to consider various aspects of economic development that they believe to be important. These groups will bring ideas to the Advisory Committee for discussion and suggestions for implementation. Mr. Bedini reported the next meeting/workshop of the core people who have volunteered to work will be held on October 29th at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Ms. Gager stressed the importance of public announcements of these meetings and suggested they be posted on the Town’s website along with what is being done.
2. **Sustainability Subcommittee Report:**  Susan Jahnke reported the Committee had met. Those in attendance were herself, Chris Charles and Mark Picton. (Peter Armstrong and Dick Heffernon are also members.) Discussion at the meeting “centered on creating an identity, a set of goals, and an action plan for a sustainability initiative for Washington, following the recommendations in the new Plan of Conservation and Development, Chapter 5.” Mrs. Jahnke stated this subcommittee would also like to work with the Economic Development Committee.
3. **Communications:** None.

**V(a). Executive Session:** The Commission entered an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 8:27 p.m. and ended such session at 8:37 p.m.

1. **Administrative Business:**

* **Review of subdivision regulations:** Paul Frank will report at the next meeting.

1. **Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dimitri Rimsky, seconded by Susan Jahnke and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Acting Clerk