

DRAFT
Town of Fitzwilliam
Planning Board Meeting
March 28, 2017

Members Present: Terry Silverman, Suzanne Gray, Robin Blais, Paul Haynes, Matt Buonomano
Others Present: Nancy Carney, Selectman's Representative

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Minutes. The Board reviewed the minutes of the February, 2017 meeting. Silverman correction: Rick Van der Poll is Dr. Van der Poll. Blais moved, Silverman seconded and the Board approved the minutes as amended.

Silverman turned the floor to Suzanne Gray. Gray suggested reviewing the Planning Board Rules of Procedure.

Carney suggested appointing two alternates rather than only one. She suggested that alternates attend every meeting so they will be prepared to be seated for cases, adding that reading minutes is also helpful. Blais suggested asking Paul Grasewicz to serve as an alternate again. She also suggested asking Carlotta Pini if she can attend meetings as an alternate.

Buonomano turned to the training section of the Rules, asking if he would qualify for training funding even if he not a new board member. All members qualify for training. Gray asked to be alerted to various trainings offered. There are several organizations that provide training, with NHMA and NHOEP being two.

Buonomano questioned if the three year term of office for the chairman stated in the Rules is appropriate given that a member serves a three year term of office as a Planning Board member. He said he sees the role of chairman as a facilitator rather than adjudicator; more as mentoring new members.

Gray noted she and Silverman had talked about "bench strength" and the ability of a member to step into the Chair position on short notice. Buonomano suggested that when the Board designates the Chair to meet with another body, another member should attend also.

Blais thought the Vice Chairman should always be up to speed on the issues to be ready to step into the chairman role if necessary. Carney said the Vice Chairman needs to be able to practice/rehearse, adding that Board members rely on Terry to chair but should be ready to step up if necessary.

Silverman said he'd like to remain chairman. He said has no problem with others standing in. He said as chairman he plans the budget for the Planning Board, which also includes the ZBA and HDC budgets. He attends the Budget meetings. Carney said board members need to be involved in planning the budget.

Buonomano said members serve because they have a vision for the town. He felt that after several discouraging meetings, members need positive stuff to work on. He said he is energized by new ideas. He asked what positive goals the members have.

Blais said she is open to new ideas, noting that the Board has been a little reactionary due to the big cases in 2016. She asked if Buonomano was suggesting looking at the zoning ordinances. He agreed he was, as alternatives to approach future development to grow and maintain the town's heritage. He said he has been reading the NH OEP Handbook with its wealth of suggestions.

DRAFT
Town of Fitzwilliam
Planning Board Meeting
March 28, 2017

Gray said the Board needs to look at the goals in the Master Plan and be proactive. Blais said solar is coming to town and there was some talk about a sub-committee.

Silverman said the OEP and SWRPC information is not necessarily applicable to rural communities. He said a lot of those ideas do not apply. He said that when the Districts were set up in town, they were based on the kinds of activities that were already there, not just what a group thought should be there. He said the town needs to grow organically, not tell residents what to do. Blais suggested Buonomano may want to serve on the SWRPC Board and attend their annual dinners to hear from other local Boards.

Silverman noted that when the Board was faced with Eversource and the noise issue, the Board acted on behalf of town residents. Gray said this Board has members who really care about this town, and she would like to discuss some of these ideas put forward by NHOEP and SWRPC to see what might make sense for Fitzwilliam. She wondered if districts even make sense, adding the Board needs to be proactive.

Haynes said he felt that talking about what's best for the town is a good idea, reviewing goals and ordinances. Blais suggested each member take a section of the Master Plan to review and report back for discussion.

Gray noted that one goal in the 2012 Master Plan says that passing a noise ordinance wasn't feasible. Silverman noted that at the time passing a noise ordinance having to do with rooster noise wasn't feasible, adding that it is not the business of the planning board to make people be good neighbors. He added that town setback requirements are in place in part to protect neighbors from neighborhood noise.

He said the real test is when someone who has moved away from town returns and is happy that the town seems the same.

Silverman would like to bring back the local Shoreland Protection ordinance developed a few years ago. Starting work early on ordinance review and development is important, as is listening to all town residents. Silverman cited RSA 676:12.

Buonomano asked about email and whether or not each member should not use personal email addresses. It was noted that emailing among Board members could violate the right to know regulations regarding open meetings. Silverman added that it is OK to receive emails but board members should not get into conversations by emailing.

Gray reviewed the disqualification information in the Rules of Procedure, noting that a member must notify the chair if they plan to recuse or disqualify themselves.

Buonomano asked about roll call voting. He will also review the fee schedule again for the Board to review at their April meeting. Members will review the Master Plan and select goals they want to work on.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.