

TOWN OF SHELBURNE
Planning Board
Minutes of Meeting April 12, 2017

A duly posted meeting of the Shelburne Planning Board was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall, 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, MA.

Present: John Wheeler, Chair Planning Board
Will Flanders
Cam Stevenson
Josiah Simpson

Administrative Assistant: Liz Kidder

Absent:

Audience:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2017 meeting and public hearing was made by Josiah and seconded by Cam.

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention by John as chair of the meeting.

ANR Plans – none presented

Special Permit /Variance Applications – Becky Ashenden had delivered a special permit application to John and he signed the certificate of receipt for the plans. They Board will review the plans at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: the Board received an email informing them that the MDI grant to update the last parking study had been awarded by the State. The Board was invited to a meeting on May 11th at 2pm to meet the consultant assigned to this project by the State. The Board noted that Cathy Buntin at the Senior Center had said that the Town was going to receive technical assistance from the FRCOG to study the housing needs for the Town..

OLD BUSINESS:

Master Plan Update - the Board reviewed the 1999 Buckland/Shelburne Master Plan.

- Chapter 1 - Natural Resources, Open Space and Farmland -- the recently updated Open Space Plan has probably updated this Chapter.
- Chapter 2 – Historic & Scenic Resources -- the Board needs to review this chapter at some point to see which sections were updated in the open space plan and to identify what may need to be updated in the future.
- Chapter 3 – Transportation Resources and Chapter 4 – Public Infrastructure and Municipal Services-- need updating.
- Chapter 5 – Capital Improvement Program -- need to review and compare to the report prepared by the long-range planning committee.
- Chapters 6 - Economic Development needs to be updated.
- Chapter 7 – Housing needs to be updated and hopefully there will be assistance through a FRCOG technical assistant grant.
- Chapter 8 - Land use and zoning - needs to be reviewed and updated by the Board.

The Board discussed including other groups and committees as needed, such as: Buckland Planning Board, GSFABA, Selectboard, Open Space, Concom, etc. The Board also discussed and considered delegating chapters such as the Economic Development Chapter to the Village Partnership. Josiah said he would call the Chairman of Buckland Planning Board when we are ready to talk to them. The Board discussed strategies for approaching this update and how to assess the potential for adapting form based zoning. The Board decided to look over Chapter 7 – Housing - for discussion at the next meeting.

Approved: _____ Date: _____ 1

Submissions for ATM 2017:

A motion to present a verbal report to Annual Town Meeting in support of the proposed revisions for Sections 2, 4.2, 4.3, 9, 19.3.3, 11, 21, and 22 as submitted to the Selectboard was made by Will and seconded by Cam. Josiah recused himself from this discussion and the vote.

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention by Josiah

John will present a verbal report at Town Meeting. Liz will send John notes she had prepared for the newspapers about the purpose behind each of the warrant articles.

Skalski Special Permit Application: The Board reviewed the letter they had sent and a follow-up email to the ZBA referencing a definition of “Junkyards”. John Wheeler reported on the hearing that had been held by the ZBA. John found the Chapter 140B section 1 definitions – “junk” and “junkyard”. John reported the hearing had been continued to May 4th. He said the ZBA would probably contact Town Counsel to review whether Mr. Skalski’s project is a junkyard or storage.

Budget for FY 2018 - The Board reviewed the email from the Selectboard about their recommendations for the Planning Board budget for FY 2018. These recommendations supported the increased expense line item and an additional 50 hours of clerical support rather than the 100 hours requested. The consensus of the Board was to thank the Selectboard and Finance Committee for the additional expense money and clerical time.

COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL PROJECT UPDATES

FRCOG: - Cam will go to the next meeting.

Open Space: - John reported they were working on their walking trail of special trees in Shelburne.

Other Town Boards: Josiah went to the Climate Change workshop along with Tom Miner and Chris Meyers of Shelburne. He said that Climate Change concerns definitely apply to emergency management, The FRCOG is working on a GIS data layer relating to floodplain impacts, private wells, culvert and stream crossings. Josiah said his key takeaway was whether MGL could allow for Towns to create flood overlay districts that include flood protection criteria, such as, protecting property as well as the natural purpose of the floodplain (natural resource protection) , infrastructure protection, private wells that can be affected by flood events and drought which can lower water tables. The lack of drinking water is identified as a potential climate change liability for a village like Shelburne. An additional possibility is identifying an emergency water well social network since underground hydrology can be influenced by flood events.

READ MAIL – the Board read mail as listed below.

OTHER BUSINESS NOT REASONABLY FORESEEN 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING – none presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – none presented.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – next regular meeting will be Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7pm.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Josiah and seconded by Cam.

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention by John as Chair of the meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Liz Kidder
Administrative Assistant

LIST OF DOCUMENTS:

Legal notices from neighboring communities: Buckland – 1, Greenfield – 2
Legal Notice Shelburne ZBA April 6, 2017 hearing
March 27, 2017 Letter from Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
March 31, 2017 email from Sean Neill
March 31, 2017 email from John Wheeler regarding budget and MDI Grant
April 3, 2017 Email from John Wheeler regarding MDI Grant Award
April 7, 2017 email regarding Joint MEDC/NEDA Event on June 8th
April 12, 2017 email regarding Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership: Rural Economic Development from a Public Policy Perspective
April 6, 2017 email from Members of the ZBA regarding Skalski Hearing'
April 4 and 3, 2017 emails regarding typos in proposed bylaw revisions
Final Draft Zoning Bylaw Revisions for Annual Town Meeting 2017 regarding Sections 2, 4.2, 4.3, 9, 10.3.3, 11, 22, and 21.
March 23, 2017 email from Selectboard regarding Planning Board FY 2018 budget request
April 5, 2017 email to ZBA on Skalski application
April 6, 2017 email to ZBA on "junkyards"
Greenfield Recorder article on 3/31/2017 regarding Shelburne CDBG
Invitation to Joe Judd's retirement party