

**Town of Northwood
Planning Board
April 25, 2013**

Chairman Robert Strobel calls the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Strobel, Vice-Chairman Tim Jandebour, Selectmen's Representative Scott Bryer, Joseph McCaffrey, Richard Wolf, Lee Baldwin, Lucy Edwards, Town Planner Elaine Planchet, and Board Administrator Linda Smith. *Alternate Adam Sprague arrives at 7:15 p.m.; Alternate Victoria Parmele arrives at 7:33.*

VOTING DESIGNATION: Bob Strobel, Tim Jandebour, Scott Bryer, Joe McCaffrey, Rick Wolf, Lee Baldwin, and Lucy Edwards.

MINUTES

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Mr. Jandebour makes a motion, second by Mr. McCaffrey, to approve the minutes of April 11, 2013; Delete "s" after "Wolf" pg 2.; 6/0/1 motion passes; Mr. McCaffrey abstains.

Master Plan Update Discussion

Board Discussion on Vision Statement

Mr. Strobel states the board agreed to address visioning at this evening's meeting. Ms. Planchet explains that she received two draft documents by the April 18 deadline for submittal; those were provided in the packets. She states that Ms. Parmele submitted her draft today, and it is distributed to members. Ms. Planchet states that the first two documents are basically edits to the 2004 Master Plan and therefore she did not merge them. She states that it would be difficult to conduct a "committee edit" of the documents.

Ms. Planchet explains how she believes the vision statement should be created based on the statute, and public input that was provided to the board at the visioning sessions, community survey and work sessions. She adds that she included copies of the Town of Sandwich Vision Statement as an example of what the vision statement could look like. Ms. Planchet adds that the update should be new, not a mere edit of a previous edition; it should reflect the vision of the community today. She adds that the tables have been updated, but not yet analyzed. She turns the meeting back to Mr. Strobel to proceed with discussion.

Mr. Strobel asks members for comments. Mr. McCaffrey states that the Vision Statement could be an edit; he states that there is no point in rewriting the same info in a different format if it is still accurate.

Ms. Planchet states that if things are the same as the previous Master Plan, then there may not be a reason to update it. She explains that, if an update is being

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done, it is necessary to do so with supporting information and public input; she states it should be based on something. She further explains how the data in the tables and public input should be used to steer the direction of what is being recommended.

Mr. Jandebour states that he likes the Sandwich example as it has merit in that it is short and concise. He sees the question being whether the board should look at the Sandwich one or take the 2004 and change the information to reflect the current situation. He states he is leaning to the Sandwich approach.

Mr. Strobel asks members to indicate their preference. Ms. Baldwin states she very much prefers the Sandwich one. She states that the 2004 Update is too much, too confusing, and it seems to go in circles. Mr. Bryer states that he likes the Sandwich approach. Mr. Wolf states he likes the short version. Mr. Sprague states he prefers the shorter one because he believes that the public can see that it is clear & concise, and easier to understand. Ms. Edwards states that she likes the Sandwich format and that it is a good way to shift gears. Mr. Strobel states that he prefers the Sandwich approach for the visioning section and that the board could always add prose or more detail later in the Master Plan. Mr. Strobel states that perhaps the Charles Little quote could be included elsewhere. Discussion ensues.

Ms. Planchet explains that she has prepared a worksheet with bullet items left blank for proposed vision statement/goals and objectives/priorities. Mr. Strobel states this is the time the board set aside to work on this so we have time this evening. He states the board will take a recess to work on the worksheets and after 10 minutes or so they will go back in session and draft visioning language.

A recess is taken at 7:40; the board is back in session at 8:00.

Ms. Planchet has the worksheet on a projector; she states she will type the members' ideas and the board could make changes as it is drafted. Discussion ensues as recommended language is provided by members and changes/additions made. The board develops the following draft language:

VISION FOR TOWN OF NORTHWOOD: DRAFT 4/25/13

THE FUTURE OF NORTHWOOD SHOULD HAVE: (WHAT TOWN WANTS TO HAVE/SEE/REMAIN...)

1. Cherish, preserve and protect its rural small town atmosphere by protecting its natural resources, historical character/heritage and scenic beauty.
2. Preserve and protect ground and surface water resources for drinking and recreation purposes.

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3. Create Town Center with Community Services/Business
4. Develop an Economic Plan that will enhance its blossoming economic and service destination of surrounding towns while staying consistent with our rural atmosphere. Recognizing our rural character and the need to cherish and preserve it, Northwood must also recognize that we are an economic service center for our own residents and for our surrounding, similar towns: Deerfield, Nottingham and Strafford.
5. Provide for all age groups by improving and maintaining community facilities and services. Be vibrant and diverse by promoting social, cultural, housing, and recreational opportunities for all age groups.
6. Encourage more community spirit, involvement and volunteering.
7. TransportationWork with NH DOT, regional planning commissions and other interested parties on Route 4 safety improvements in the short, medium and long term plans.....Encourage transportation options concerning Route 4 for residents, commuters and visitors.
8. Identify high priority natural resource areas for water protection, recharge areas, wildlife corridors and pathways, agriculture....Natural Resource Inventory?
9. Identify “commercial encouragement” areas in town to preserve the rural character of the town.
10. Encourage Economic Development that uses the town/resident resources efficiently, plans for the longer term in terms of food production, protection from storms, energy, viable transportation for all age groups and allows the town to adjust gracefully in good and bad economic times.
11. Provide opportunities for employment and small-scale businesses consistent with our rural character. Promote local businesses that would allow living wages so that residents could afford to live here and work here.
12. Residential Housing.... Well planned/reasonable development...56% of survey respondents wanted more single family homes

Mr. Strobel states that staff will provide this to the board; he suggests that members take a look at this, and bring back comments for the next time.

Ms. Parmele leaves at 8:50.p.m.

Masten Road and Drainage Easement Deed per BOS Process

Ms. Smith explains the request for review and comment on the town action to acquire the roads/drainage easements of Masten development. Ms. Smith states the board’s purpose this evening is to consider the land under the roads; the subdivision has been approved several years ago by the planning board which reviewed the regulations at that time. Mr. Bryer explains that the road

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acceptance is a different issue and it is to be determined by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Ms. Smith states that the BOS will have hearings on this. Discussion ensues. The consensus of the board is that the board has no comment and that the chair will provide and sign a memo to the Board of Selectmen stating this.

Discussion of upcoming session on transportation on May 9

Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Sprague state that they will prepare for the transportation work session. Mr. Sprague states that he will prepare slides/power point presentation and will send it to town staff before the meeting. Mr. Strobel states that he will bring a laptop for the Power Point presentation. The board agrees to invite the Highway Advisory Committee to the meeting. Ms. Planchet states that she will make sure that the Vision Statement tri-fold will be available with stickers for members of the public to provide their preferences.

Other

Mr. McCaffrey states that he received an e-mail from Ms. Planchet which she forwarded at the request of Ms. Parmele which was from a political lobbying group, and he did not appreciate receiving this. Discussion ensues. Ms. Planchet states that she routinely forwards e-mails from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, etc. She states she will not forward information to the board from individuals from this point forward.

Tim Jandebaur makes a motion to adjourn. Ms Baldwin seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Smith,



Board Administrator