

Minutes, Planning Board Special Meeting, April 10, 2014

Present: Diane Poland (Chair), Joe Strzegowski (Vice-chair), Dave Chichester and Dave Barten. Absent: Mary McClintock

The meeting began at 7:00 pm. There were three items on the agenda:

(1) Reports—Joe gave a quick report on the status of the Flood Mitigation project, saying that Weston & Sampson was the only bidder.

He also mentioned that though Tom H. wanted an overlay showing how the land area to be lowered on the Rose property might be moved to accommodate the proposed soccer field, Kimberly McPhee (FRCOG) said it was not likely such a move would be accepted by the agency giving the grant money for the project .

Joe had attended a ConCom meeting where he had a chance to talk with Jack Gates about how the Planning Board should proceed in seeking a “determination of applicability” for the work done by Emily Stockman. Jack felt there was no need to rush about applying, and thought the Board could let time pass for a while.

(2) Article—the meeting had been called especially to discuss and revise an earlier version of the article for the Town Meeting Warrant requesting \$12,000 for a feasibility study of a municipal wastewater treatment system. The need for revision of the article was due to the Finance Committee’s having decided that it would not recommend it, because it was not specific enough about how the money would be used.

Dave B. had attended the meeting on April 7 where the Selectmen and Finance Committee were going through the draft copy of the Warrant for the Annual Meeting, each of the two bodies taking final votes on whether to recommend or not those articles focused on spending money.

When it came to the article on the septic system, Dave was asked to say more about the study. After he finished the Finance Committee changed its “not recommended” to “no recommendation”, thereby allowing the Selectmen to have the final say, since there was still a week during which articles could be submitted to them. The Selectmen did not vote on the septic article, but asked the Planning Board to get them a revised article by April 14. Dave reported this to the members.

In anticipation of the SPM, Dave B. and Joe had passed proposed revisions via-email to members. Joe had created two proposals, and after discussing them, members voted unanimously to accept the second, which reads:

“To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from free cash or take from available funds the sum of \$12,000 for a comprehensive feasibility study of the alternative possibilities for a comprehensive municipal waste water treatment system which would serve the residences and businesses in the village center (Route 116)

including but not limited to River St., Main St. , and portions of South Deerfield Road and Ashfield Road, or take any action relative thereto.”

Dave C. asked that the members address the Weston & Sampson proposal for spending the money, an item that Tom H. wanted. Dave’s concern was that the proposal seemed unconnected to Conway. Joe thought it “boiler plate”, and suggested that should money be granted for the study, the Board would have to work with Weston’s reps to create a study that represented the Board’s interest and need for real information.

The members agreed that this would be necessary.

(2) *** (revised) Surprise—Diane mentioned that she would like to take a leave of absence, given the need to attend to her B&B, and that she has health issues. As the discussion with the members proceeded, she said that she really would like to resign from the Board, and would continue on as Chair until after the Town Meeting in May. She will not attend up-coming meetings, unless there were need for some reason for all five members to be in attendance.

A surprised Joe, David C. and David B. decided that Joe as Vice-chair should take responsibility for the Board during the transition period, and be made Chair when Diane actually resigns. The three expressed their concern for Diane’s health and understanding for her need to spend more time on her personal life.

There being no other business, the meeting ended by unanimous consent at 8:00pm. The next Planning Board meeting is on April 17th, at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Barten, clerk