

Minutes Conway Planning Board Meeting, May 7, 2014

Present: Joseph Strzegowski, Mary McClintock, David Barten and David Chichester.

Absent: Diane Poland

Acting Chair Strzegowski opened the meeting at 7:00. There were eight agenda items:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2014, as revised, were unanimously accepted.
- (2) There was a brief discussion of the PB's archives, the many maps, charts and records accumulated over the years. The PB then took a brief tour of the 2nd floor of the Town Office and recognized the need for more safe and orderly maintenance. It was voted unanimously to purchase some new and appropriate filing cabinets. Funds are available within the PB's FY 2014 Budget.

ACTION ITEM: David B volunteered to investigate and report back re: the options to purchase new filing equipment.

- (3) There was a brief discussion of the Rose property status and the Proposal the PB made to the Selectboard regarding the Riverbend Park idea. The PB would like to have a discussion with the Selectboard about their support for the project, what their thoughts are for proceeding with the proposal, what role do they want the PB to play, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Dave C volunteered to contact the Town Administrator to set up a joint meeting with them.

- (4) Joe reported that, at the latest meeting of the Conservation Commission, that he attended, the **Request for Determination of Applicability** was passed without change. This process was initiated by the PB to affirm delineation of the wetlands included in the Rose Property. Task complete. The signed document is attached to these minutes (kept in the Town Office Library).
- (5) The Planning Board then spent some time reviewing the group discussion which occurred at the Pre-Town meeting (on May 5) regarding the revisions of the Protective Bylaws being proposed at the upcoming Town Meeting. The PB considered that discussion and comments "as a gift" from the attendees in helping to craft a revision of the Summary Notes to be distributed at the Town Meeting on May 12th.

Discussion continued: If it appears the Town Meeting floor discussion is heading toward defeat of the motion, what are the consequences if it doesn't pass? Are there any parts of the proposed revisions that could be salvaged through floor amendments? It was concluded it would not be advisable to attempt to parse the revised bylaws at that time and the vote of the Town Meeting will stand.

ACTION ITEM: Mary will revise those Summary Notes, per the learnings from the Pre-town meeting, and make sufficient copies for distribution at the May 12th meeting.

- (6) David B reported on the recent Informational Public Meeting, led by Mr. Cutler from Ashfield, regarding the gas pipeline being proposed for construction in Conway and nearby towns. The role of the PB was discussed but concluded there were few specifics to go on. Reference was made to an upcoming meeting of the Regional Planning Board group at the FRCOG on May 15th. Joe and David C will attend.

Three of the PB members had been contacted by phone by a Conway citizen requesting that the PB write a letter to the Conway Board of Health asking them to conduct a public hearing and research the potential public health hazard that such a pipeline would impose on the town. Since citizens have raised concerns to the Board, and one role of Planning Boards, by state mandate, is to assess conditions that could be injurious to the public health, the PB feels that town officials should assess the impact of a gas pipeline on Conway's public health. (Note: Excerpt from MGL Part I, Title VII, Chapter 41, Section 70: "...create a planning board, which shall make careful studies of the resources, possibilities and needs of the town, particularly with respect to conditions injurious to the public health...") The Planning Board feels that the Board of Health has more expertise and resources related to public health issues and is the appropriate town board to conduct such an assessment. The PB voted (4-0-0) to continue to pursue the issues and to support Joe's communication with the Board of Health.

Note: Mary suggested the www.celdf.org web site as a good resource for information.

ACTION ITEM: Joe will write a letter to the Board of Health, an authority the state recognizes as having strong influence on matters of public health and safety, to request that they research factual information, seek feedback from residents and establish an official position.

(7) Recognizing that Diane Poland has expressed her desire to resign from the PB, there was a discussion about the uncertainty about the process for permit review, if the situation should arise and a "super majority" vote might be necessary. It was agreed PB members would continue to search for a replacement and attempt to fill the position as soon as possible. The Board reviewed MGL Chapter 41, Section 81a, which spells out the process of interim appointment with joint deliberation between the PB and the Selectboard.

(8) Old/New Business:

- a. The PB agreed to postpone working on the Marijuana bylaws until a later date where full attention can be given to the subject.
- b. After discussion about frequency of regular meetings, the members reached a tentative agreement that monthly meetings would probably be sufficient for the future; understanding, of course, that they would meet more frequently if needed.

There being no further business, the members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Due to some personal scheduling conflicts, the members voted unanimously to change the next meeting from the usual 3rd Thursday (May 22nd) to Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00 at the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
David I Chichester