

## **Town of Conway**

### **Minutes: Joint Meeting of Conway Planning Board Meeting and Selectboard, June 2, 2014**

Present for Planning Board: Joseph Strzegowski, David Barten and David Chichester.

Absent: Mary McClintock

Present for Selectboard: Rick Bean, Jim Moore, John O'Rourke

Guest: Sue McFarland

The joint meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. There were four agenda items:

- (1) The Planning Board recommended appointment of Sue McFarland to the PB to serve out Diane Poland's remaining term of office until May, 2015. Diane had previously submitted her resignation in May, 2014. The appointment was affirmed unanimously by the combined boards. The group extended enthusiastic welcome to Ms McFarland.
  
- (2) Dave Chichester presented the PB's proposal for the development of an open space park on the Rose Property. The suggested name is Riverbend Park. The full proposal has been posted on the town's web site.

Rick Bean was very complimentary of the proposal and suggested the document was quite suitable as written and should go forward. He felt it fits with the Park and Rec's vision of connecting walkways with downtown and the Town's Master Plan of preserving the rural character of the town. It is also compatible with the beliefs of the Friends of South River group. Discussion ensued about how to organize for design, development and on-going maintenance. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed with representatives from the Affordable Housing Committee, Open Spaces, Friends of the South River, Council on Aging, Park and Recreation Committee, Planning Board and other interested citizens. The Planning Board would be willing to help form the Committee but not be responsible for the long term development.

John O'Rourke expressed concern about forming yet another committee and questioned whether members would have the strength and ongoing interest to move it through to completion. Nevertheless it was agreed to move ahead in the formation of the ad hoc committee.

Mention was made of the many existing general and designated purpose funds in town, and one could be formed especially for the purpose of developing and supporting the Riverbend Park.

Joe Strzegowski mentioned the need for a unified proposal to go before the Conservation Commission and Natural Heritage and that it be done once, as a total project. The PB volunteered to help with that process. He felt it was preferable to do the permitting this summer, if possible.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tom Hutcheson will contact the groups mentioned and pursue formation of the charter group.

- (3) The next agenda item involved discussion of the \$12,000 that was appropriated at the recent Town Meeting for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study of a sewer project in the downtown area. There was discussion as to whether it would be necessary to go out to bid for this particular project. Mr. Hutcheson volunteered to clarify that issue.

Mr. Strzegowski mentioned that the Planning Board would be willing to help the BOS write the Request for Proposal. It was agreed a new committee should be formed to manage this project through completion. Evidently, several people in town have already volunteered to participate. It was agreed that the project should move forward with a sense of urgency.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tom Hutcheson will work to form such a committee with help from the Planning Board.

- (4) With reference to the recent Town Meeting and the failed effort to pass the Zoning Bylaw Changes proposed by the Planning Board, Mr. Strzegowski noted the need to figure out how to present this important but complex subject to the town. The main thrust of the changes is to have a set of bylaws that are up to date and effectively protect the existing character of the town. It is important to give people the opportunity to be heard. Unfortunately, because of a motion to table the article at the Town Meeting, the town didn't get the chance to give proper consideration to the motion. There was discussion about the pros and cons of having a special Town Meeting in the fall.

There being no further business, the members voted unanimously to adjourn the joint meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Due to some scheduling conflicts, the next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
David I Chichester