

Town of Conway

Minutes of the Conway Planning Board Meeting, September 18, 2014

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

Chairman Strzegowski opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

- (1) The minutes of the meeting of August 21, 2014, were unanimously approved.
- (2) There was discussion about the advisability of pursuing the development of a Town Bylaw which would address potential nuisances that might be caused by a natural gas compression station, should one be constructed in Conway as part of the larger Pipeline construction project. The question was whether the Planning Board should promulgate a bylaw that could effectively regulate risks associated with air, noise, light and water quality issues produced by a compression station, and construct it in such a way as to anticipate future conditions should the company expand such a facility. Reference was made to a Greenfield Recorder article published Wednesday, September 17th.

There was discussion about a Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund model as a possible reference in the context of a community rights framework. See www.celdf.org.

A further question was raised as to what governmental agency, within the town or even the state, has the authority to permit and govern a facility such as a compressor station. Do Conway's existing Town Zoning Bylaws apply? (See Section 23.1) If protective language is properly implemented, will the Building Inspector have the ability and the authority to enforce it?

It was agreed that the PB would pursue the development of such a bylaw.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mary will look into the Bill of Rights concept according to the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) model.
 - Joe and David B. will explore possible multi-town action through the Regional Planning Board at its next meeting.
 - Sue will contact Peggy Sloan, at the FRCOG, to explore other towns' bylaws around Air, Noise, Light and Water Quality controls.
 - Joe will research existing Conway Zoning language as it may apply to compressor stations.
- (3) David B reported that the Wastewater *Ad Hoc* Task Force has not yet met. Organization is needed.

ACTION ITEM: Joe will convene a meeting of the Wastewater Task Force.

- (4) David C. reported that the Town Park *Ad Hoc* Task Force met several times and has produced a semi-final draft of a detailed proposal to create a new Town Park, as an adjunct to the planned Senior Housing Project, on the town property formerly owned by Greg Rose. The group is awaiting a formal conversation with Natural Heritage and the Department of Environmental Protection. Once all of the agencies have given approval, the committee will seek affirmation from the various town committees who may have stakes in the project. The finalized draft will be presented to the Selectboard with a final step of seeking approval at a Town Meeting.

- (5) Sue gave a brief report on the Pipeline *Ad Hoc* Task Force.
- (6) On the subject of a marijuana bylaw, Mary reported that she had sent to all of the PB members the bylaws of several Massachusetts towns (either proposed or passed). After discussion the PB decided the sense of urgency for pursuit of action on this subject is reduced. The matter was tabled for now.
- (7) For the sake of clarity, appointments to the Franklin County Council of Governments (FRCOG) Regional Planning Board were reviewed. Joe Strzegowski will be the Planning Board's representative. Unanimously approved. David Barten will apply to the Selectboard for At-Large Town Representative.
- (8) David B. reported on a meeting he attended on the subject of GIS mapping concepts. He was very impressed with the presentation/discussion. Apparently, the Assessors have been developing some excellent applications and overlays, and there appears to be great potential for future use of this concept. He feels the Planning Board could definitely have a role in this area.

There being no further business, the members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS: Planning Board; Thursday, October 2, 2014, and Thursday October 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 6, 2014, followed by a Debt Exclusion Ballot Vote on October 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

David I Chichester