

## **Town of Conway**

### **Minutes of the Conway Planning Board Meeting, November 6, 2014**

Present: Joseph Strzegowski, Mary McClintock, David Barten

Absent: Sue McFarland and David Chichester

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

1) The minutes of the meeting of October 16, 2014 were unanimously approved.

2) Mr. Strzegowski reported that he's still waiting to receive the applications for the Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (MDI) funding from Jessica Atwood at FRCOG.

3) There was a brief discussion about whether there will be a Special Town Meeting in January 2015 and, if so, whether the Planning Board would place any articles on the Warrant. The potential for a STM has been raised by the Housing Committee, but the PB is not sure whether the Housing Committee plans to go forward with a STM or wait until Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Barten said that the Community Preservation Committee has approved a \$60,000 grant to the Housing Committee for Senior Housing on the former Rose Property, pending approval by Town Meeting. The Board discussed whether there is a time limitation to that grant.

#### **Action Item:**

- Mr. Barten will research whether there is a time limit on the CPC grant and will ask Pixie Holbrook whether there are plans for a January STM.

4) As of November 6, there have been no responses to Mr. Strzegowski's letter to the Ashfield, Shelburne, and Deerfield Planning Boards asking them if they would like to work together to craft bylaws related to noise, light and air quality issues related to a potential compressor station for the proposed natural gas pipeline that is currently routed through the four towns. To develop such a bylaw, the Planning Board had discussed applying for a District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant from FRCOG. Applications for those grants are not yet available. The Board had a lengthy discussion about what standards would be appropriate for a noise bylaw and whether it should be a bylaw for the whole town or only related to a natural gas compressor station. The current zoning bylaw states that 100 feet from the property there cannot be any noise that is normally perceptible above street noise. The Board discussed whether it would be useful to contact the Agawam-based company Noise Solutions that has done work with noise mitigation with a gas compressor in New York state and ask about what noise mitigation would be possible for 120,000 horsepower gas compressors. Noise Solutions worked to reduce noise at the 7,000 horsepower NYS compressor from 60 decibels to 45 decibels. The Board also discussed whether there are specific decibel levels that should be listed in a bylaw and where in relation to the property. The Board has looked at several noise bylaws from other towns and is unclear whether any of those bylaws are adequate for dealing with 120,000 horsepower compressor-type noises.

#### **Action Items:**

- Mr. Strzegowski will ask FRCOG when DLTA applications will be available.

- Mr. Strzegowski will ask the Pipeline Committee about their thoughts about a potential noise bylaw related to a compressor station.

5) Mr. Barten and Mr. Strzegowski reported on the first meeting of the Wastewater Treatment Committee. The other two committee members are wastewater professionals who work in Ashfield and Greenfield. The next meeting of the Committee is November 12. The Committee has \$12,000 authorized by Town Meeting to do a feasibility study for a downtown area wastewater treatment system. The committee discussed various options for a system.

6) Mr. Chichester was absent from the meeting so there was no report from the Town Park committee. Mr. Strzegowski said the town has not heard from Natural Heritage about when there will be a meeting related to the South River and Town Park.

7) Ms. McFarland was absent from the meeting so there was no report from the Pipeline committee. The Board discussed Kinder Morgan's filing of revised maps and environmental statements. The Board had not yet seen the revised map.

8) The Board discussed the cancellation of the previously scheduled December 3 Kinder Morgan open house. The open house will be rescheduled.

9) The Board discussed timing of preparation of articles related to zoning bylaw revisions, medical marijuana bylaws and compressor noise. Such preparation of articles is on hold pending whether there will be a Special Town Meeting. If such articles were to be submitted for the May Annual Town Meeting, public hearings would be held in February or March.

10) The Board discussed possible revisions of the zoning bylaws, including whether it should include a Use Table. Mr. Barten and Mr. Strzegowski said that their understanding is that very few towns have text zoning bylaws, most have Use Tables. The Board discussed whether it would be useful to have a joint meeting with Attorney Tom Lesser and FRCOG Planner Peggy Sloan. Mr. Lesser had offered to help rewrite the zoning bylaws. Ms. Sloan assisted the Board in the proposed revision of the zoning bylaws that were presented at Annual Town Meeting in May 2014. The Board agreed that a meeting with Mr. Lesser and Ms. Sloan in January would be useful.

Action Item: Mr. Strzegowski will suggest possible dates for this meeting.

11) The Board confirmed that its next meeting is November 20 and that it will meet on December 4. There had been the possibility of canceling the Dec. 4 meeting because of the now-postponed Dec. 3 Kinder Morgan open house.

12) Mail received included:

Two proposals for the Corridor Management Plan for the South River; a project to study the whole South River watershed, including streams that feed into the South River. The focus of the study would be to look at fluvial erosion hazard. Mr. Strzegowski is involved as part of an advisory group to FRCOG. FRCOG sent a press release about the project. Ms. McFarland offered to write a user-friendly article for *The Visitor* to explain the project to landowners whose land may be involved in the study.

Invitation to an All-Committee Meeting on Monday, November 24, at 7 pm in the upstairs Town Hall meeting room.

Notice of the Greening Greenfield conference at GCC focused on Creating a Bold New Economy: An Idea Incubator for Franklin County's Future, Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30am-3:30pm,

GCC Dining Commons, Lunch and refreshments served, Keynote speaker: Marjorie Kelly, researcher and author, *Owning Our Future: The Emerging Ownership Revolution, Journeys to a Generative Economy*  
Budget requests for 2015-16 are due January 9, 2015.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, November 20, 2014; 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McClintock