

Town of Conway

Minutes of the Conway Planning Board Meeting, November 19, 2014

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

Absent:

Chairman Strzegowski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the meeting of November 6, 2014, were approved. Two abstentions.
2. The Planning Board discussed the merits of applying for a grant under the Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (**MDI**) program. Application due December 5, 2014. Discussion included:
 - How to develop the downtown area further to make it into a place of economic growth?
 - Why are people coming to Conway? An assessment of specifics might be done.
 - Who is already coming here? Rafting on the Deerfield? Hiking? Camping? Snowmobiles? Bikers? Motorcycles? Covered Bridge?
 - Would they stop? What would cause them to stop?
 - What types of businesses support the activities already a destination in Conway?
 - Address “where we are” and “what we want to be.” What economic opportunities currently exist?
 - Would be of value to hire someone to work with the PB and have these conversations.

It was agreed that the PB would apply for this grant through the FRCOG.

ACTION ITEM:

- Ms McClintock and Ms McFarland will jointly write the text for the application.
3. In response to the earlier solicitation letter sent by Mr. Strzegowski to adjoining town planning boards, asking them to support a joint effort to develop model protective bylaw language pertinent to natural gas pipeline compression stations, a letter was received from the Town of Deerfield expressing their support. No response yet from Ashfield or Buckland.

There was continued discussion about seeking a Technical Assistance Grant to help develop bylaw language toward protecting against public nuisance of noise, vibration, light, water and air quality. Pertinent to this, the FRCOG had recently sent to planning boards a list of proposed regional and local projects that might be addressed by technical assistance grants. Planning Boards were asked to prioritize the subjects and return the list to Phoebe Walker. Included on this list is help for governing gas pipeline impact considerations. The PB agreed this was number one priority for Conway.

The PB discussed all listed projects and agreed on notating priorities, as requested. A copy of this completed form is attached to the hard copy minutes of this meeting.

ACTION ITEM:

- Mr. Strzegowski will complete the form and forward it to Phoebe Walker at the FRCOG.

4. In preparation for the town-wide All-Committee meeting scheduled for November 24th, Mr. Strzegowski proposed an outline for the PB presentation on past accomplishments and future plans. (Attached to the hard copy of these minutes.)
5. Re: the Wastewater *Ad Hoc* Committee, Mr. Barten reported that they had held their second meeting, with in-depth discussions on several possible areas for study, including new wastewater handling technologies and approaches that would be compatible with current DEP thinking. In preparation for going out to bid for the feasibility study (funds were approved at the May, 2014, Town Meeting), several potential companies have been identified.

It was noted, to everyone's delight, that a new logo design for the Project has been submitted by Ms McClintock. To be unveiled at the All-Committee meeting on November 24th.

6. Re: the Town Park *Ad Hoc* Committee, Mr. Chichester reported that the Committee has not met recently. The Park Development written proposal, which was approved by the Committee on August 30, 2014, is intended to be included in a composite presentation for the entire property to the Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Heritage, Conway Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts DEP for global consideration and approval. It is expected such a meeting of this group, coordinated by the consultant, Weston & Sampson, will be occurring over the next several weeks.
7. Re: Pipeline *Ad Hoc* Committee, Ms McFarland reported that the group has obtained a legal opinion from Town Counsel, that Conway could not adopt Deerfield's Board of Health conclusions without going through a proper public hearing process. She also mentioned the committee had discussed financial considerations and liabilities. The previously scheduled Open House meeting at GCC, including Kinder Morgan and FERC, has been cancelled for now.
8. The Town Administrator has requested that numbers for the FY '16 Operating and Capital budgets be submitted by January 9, 2015. Discussion ensued as to various PB needs.

ACTION ITEM:

- Mr. Strzegowski will submit the budgets to the Administrator.

There being no further business, the members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 4, 2014; 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

David I Chichester