

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNING BOARD
September 20, 2017
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Camilla Lockwood, Bill Ezell, Brian Kullgren, Ted Sartell, Bruce Kullgren, Jr., and Allan Pickman

Call to order by Pickman at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of 9/6/17 were reviewed. Motion by Lockwood to approve as written, second by Bruce Kullgren, and so voted.

Master Plan update: Rose Lowry attended the meeting as a guest. She and Lockwood had previously met with local area professional planners Carol Ogilvie and Ivy Vann to discuss creation of a Vision Statement for Temple. The formulation of a “steering committee” was discussed at length. Lockwood volunteered to approach people at the Harvest Festival to become volunteers on the committee. Sartell suggested providing a simple statement indicating “Temple needs a Vision Statement – What is a Vision Statement?” to promote discussion. Lockwood referenced a recent article in the Ledger about the neighboring town of Greenville preparing for a “community profile weekend” to help revitalize their town.

Lowry provided a lot of information for the board to consider. She indicated the meeting with Ogilvie and Vann had generated good recommendations plus a method and plan for developing a Vision Statement. Lowry reviewed the previous Village District Survey process conducted by Temple in 2012. She told the board the first step would be to conduct a survey of all town residents and provided copies of a draft survey form, which the board reviewed. Lowry said the survey would provide data that would rate Temple qualities and then that information would be formulated into a chart of responses. She said townspeople need to feel involved and like to be heard. She indicated the steering committee would do the work to gather the information and then report to the board. Suggestions were offered for making residents aware of the need for a Vision Statement and possibly joining the committee. These included having a sign-up board at the Harvest Festival as well as posting on the town website and on the local area Facebook page. It was suggested the committee should include at least two PB members. Lockwood said there would most likely be a small number of interested people who would come in to meet with the board, and the PB would then vote them onto the committee.

Sartell asked for clarification about the committee and survey processes. Lengthy discussion followed about the charter of the steering committee and the content to be put forth in the survey. Lowry explained the ultimate goal of the committee was to present a draft Vision Statement, utilizing inputs from previous surveys plus new data. She stated the committee’s job would be to “collect the will of the town”. Sartell felt the PB should develop the survey. Sartell asked if there would be a focus group, and Lowry responded that the focus group is the town itself. She also commented it would be important to bring in the professionals and she discussed their role in reviewing data and preparing the information chart. The results should provide a snapshot of Temple today, and the resulting demographics would be used to present the first Vision Statement public session or forum. Following this there would be discussion and revision, and then a second public session would be held. Finally after the data was analyzed a draft Vision Statement would be presented to the PB. Brian Kullgren asked about a timeframe to get all this accomplished, and Lowry suggested before Thanksgiving.

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNING BOARD
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MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

At this point Sartell stated he felt that farming out the Vision Statement to a committee of people who "choose to show up" is not the best way. Pickman said it would be the responsibility of the PB to have oversight of the process. Brian Kullgren commented he did not like the term "steering committee", and after brief discussion it was agreed to change the name to a subcommittee. Lowry reiterated it was imperative to reach out to the public for feedback, and board members agreed. Lowry said the committee members would be extra bodies utilized to reach out and help get data, and Ogilvie and Vann, as professional planners, would review the information gathered and then use that to help formulate a Vision Statement.

The draft survey format provided by Lowry was reviewed. Sartell commented about perceived weak areas and indicated it is difficult not to have questions which lead the respondents. Several areas on the list were pointed out. In the section concerning Employment board members suggested that other choices be provided to include "unemployed" and "retired". In the section asking for ranking of town qualities the term "rural character" was deemed too broad and unspecific. "Dark skies" and "school system" were also brought up as needing to be better defined. Lowry spoke of the survey not looking for clear definitions, but ranking things to get a general concept of what qualities are important. Pickman suggested not utilizing the broad term "rural character" and instead list things that make up rural character. Qualifying "local" goods and services and businesses was also seen as vague. Lowry showed the board some of the results and charts from the 2012 Village District Survey to give an idea of what respondents provided and how that data was formulated.

Bruce Kullgren gave Lowry a copy of a two-page Vision Statement from the Town of Greenfield and passed out copies to board members. Kullgren said it was fairly recent and had been done with help from Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC). He said he felt it was well done, came from a town similar to Temple, and suggested it be used as a template or guide with Temple's rough draft being incorporated. Lowry agreed it was a well written document, but again stressed the need for town participation as part of the Vision Statement process. Lockwood then suggested that board members take home their copies of the survey form and work to improve it, and then have Ogilvie and Vann perform a review.

Further comments about the survey form were offered. Suggestions included simplifying the essay section in Part V, splitting or shortening the list of 15 characteristics in Part IV, and fine tuning the employment and commute questions in Part III. Lowry said feedback would be needed by the next PB meeting on October 4th so the survey format could be finalized. She said the subcommittee should be considered "worker bees" to help facilitate creation of the Vision Statement. Sartell stated the subcommittee would need a clear charter, and the following was decided upon: 1) *Explain* the need for Temple's Master Plan to have a Vision Statement, 2) *Define* the Vision Statement in general terms, 3) *Gather* information from public via a survey (mail and/or online), and 4) *Organize* data to help produce a Vision Statement.

Lowry brought up the subject of paying for the professional help from Ogilvie and Vann, which came to just under \$1,000. Monies would also be needed for printing and postage. While there is money in the PB budget to cover the cost of having SWRPC work on the three contracted chapters of the Master Plan, there are no budgeted funds to cover production of the Vision Statement. This was briefly discussed, and the consensus of the board was to have Ezell request funding from the Selectmen to cover expenses for the generation of the survey and production of the Vision Statement. Ezell will bring this up for discussion at the next Selectmen's meeting. Brian Kullgren stated this was not proper, and should be part of the next budget cycle.

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
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Lockwood made a motion to have the Planning Board reach out to people to work on the subcommittee for the Vision Statement, seconded by Bruce Kullgren, and so voted.

Sartell made a motion that the Planning Board should proceed to refine and develop a survey for the Vision Statement process, seconded by Lockwood, and so voted.

Other business:

1) Sartell told the board he had recently visited his home state of Pennsylvania and found that after a lull the fracking for natural gas is back and more wells are being drilled. He provided details about viewing the site of a compressor station. He explained how a deal has been made with Amish farmers to traverse their land, and said small towns in the surrounding areas are receiving “impact fee” payments from the gas companies. Ultimately he fears the pipeline issue could resurface in New Hampshire, and urged board members to be vigilant.

2) In response to audience input at the previous meeting of 9/6/17, Bruce Kullgren offered that the board might want to consider where it stands on the possibility of Site Plan Review (SPR) for agriculture. Pickman noted any change would involve amending the town’s Zoning Ordinance. Lockwood said she thought there had been recent activity at the state level concerning this and she will review it. Kullgren said the PB should address this and determine who or what has currently raised the issue.

Bruce Kullgren also mentioned that the subject of needing more parking in the town center has been raised, and one proposed solution was to possibly move the Highway Garage to another location. He questioned whether this was even a PB issue.

Move to adjourn by Lockwood, second by Bruce Kullgren, and so voted at 8:36 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry

~ The next regular meeting will be held October 4th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. ~