

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

April 20, 2011
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Richard Whitcomb, John Kieley, Allan Pickman, Mary Beth Ayvazian, Rose Lowry

Call to order by Pickman at 7:38 p.m.

Review of minutes: Motion by Kieley to accept the minutes of April 6, 2011 as written, second by Ayvazian, and so voted.

Bartolomeo subdivision status: Per a recent email, the surveyor has indicated he is working to incorporate all changes to the plat as part of the conditional approval. When the revised plans are available he will drop off two Mylars and four paper copies at the town offices.

Wind farm: Lowry brought up the subject of whether the town's current zoning would allow or preclude a commercial wind farm. She mentioned the chapter of the Zoning Ordinance that refers to wind turbines. Pickman said the ordinance was meant to regulate only a small wind energy system for personal consumption, not a commercial site. Discussion followed on whether the town should be proactive in formulating regulation of large scale wind farms. It was noted the mountainous terrain might present an appealing location for such an endeavor. Board members agreed that public input should be obtained before attempting to change zoning. Ayvazian suggested starting with a list of pros and cons to consider. Kieley said this type of installation would create "green" energy and add to the town's tax base. Lowry mentioned the indirect benefit of power going into the grid. She stated she had visited large scale wind turbines in Denmark and they were notably quiet. Pickman said vibration could be an issue. He also mentioned impact on wildlife, including reports of multiple golden eagle deaths at an existing wind farm in California. He pointed out that Temple is a prime location for raptor migration in the fall. Kieley reminded the board that this conversation had been stimulated by a recent phone inquiry to the town, and there is no knowledge of an actual project or plan at this time. Mention was made of the ongoing issue in Antrim with a wind farm proposal there, and of the Cape Wind project seeking approval in Massachusetts. The board decided to contact the town of Lempster and perhaps visit the commercial wind turbine site there to gain perspective. Pickman will contact Lempster town officials. Ayvazian suggested the board ask Rob Wills for input, and Kieley said he would contact SWRPC for any information they could provide.

Village District survey: Lowry and Ayvazian talked about creating the survey form. Residents will be asked about their preferences regarding topics such as types of services, multi-family homes, and small businesses. Kieley felt the forms should be mailed out to each household and take only 5-10 minutes to fill out, with completed surveys being dropped off or mailed back. Pickman suggested putting the survey on the town website. Another suggestion was to check with the library director to see if forms could be deposited in the book drop. Lowry will place an informational notice in the town newsletter. Kieley suggested the town's Historic District Commission be contacted and invited to meet with the Planning Board. Lowry said the draft survey form should be available by the next meeting.

Updates to Subdivision Regulations: Board members continued their discussion about reviewing and revising this document, which was last updated in 1998. Kieley said he has a marked up draft with notations from some years ago. He suggested it be cleaned up and

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provided to road agent Tim Fiske for his input regarding roads. The Subdivision Application form and checklist will also be reviewed and revised as necessary.

Bridges: Kieleley talked about the town's new Bridge Inventory, and offered that the document estimates an astounding total replacement cost in the millions of dollars. He said that after town meeting it was agreed to hold a forum to prioritize the status of each bridge. It was suggested the Planning Board spearhead this project by setting up the forum, making site visits and taking photos, and using detailed information to develop a formula to help decide which structures should be repaired or replaced. There was brief discussion about why this was needed, including evaluating the types of construction, traffic patterns, and possible future land development. It was noted also that bridge aid from the state will most likely be reduced in upcoming years. Kieleley asked if the board would agree to be involved in this project. Lowry thought the board could act as consultants, not an authority. Pickman said the Planning Board could approach it as part of their Master Plan purview, and other town committees such as Capital Improvements might consider it a financial matter. Board members agreed providing engineering expertise was not an issue, as that was available at the state level. It was decided to ask the road agent to come to a PB meeting to discuss setting up a workshop session. It was also pointed out that a recent news release indicated the state of New Hampshire was high on the national worst bridges list.

Move to adjourn by Ayvazian, second by Lowry, so voted at 8:29 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry