

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNING BOARD
October 2, 2013
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: John Kieley, Randy Martin, Camilla Lockwood, Rose Lowry, Ken Sullivan, Allan Pickman, and Mary Beth Ayvazian

Guests present: Tom Hawkins, Paul and Anne Clifton-Waite

Call to order by Lowry at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Kieley to approve the minutes of 9/4/13 and 9/10/13 as written, seconded by Lockwood, and so voted.

Master Plan: Review of comments received from attendees at the Harvest Festival on 9/22. A list of topics of interest (see Page 2) included support for a trail system, protection of trees and mountains, and preservation of agriculture. General discussion followed regarding how to develop an approach to agriculture. Suggestions included creating a census of existing farms and agricultural areas, identification of tillable and hydric soils, consideration of a zoning overlay district, noting a trend toward small agriculture and an interest in future sustainability, controlling how development of these properties happens yet acknowledging property rights. Ideas for trails were then discussed next, including identifying areas where trails already exist, using GPS to map an interconnected trail system, consider offering a bonus for any Planned Residential Development (PRD) that opens land to the public, how best to maintain existing pathways, and creation of an overall trail plan before considering making any related changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Fisk sugar house: The board discussed the recent sale of the former Whiting property located on Route 101. Abutters from Webster Highway and Old Revolutionary Road have expressed concerns about changes being made to the land. Owner Ben Fisk has obtained a Building Permit application and a Driveway application but has not yet submitted anything to the town. He has indicated plans to move his maple sugar business to this location, starting with relocation of his evaporator. Current issues of concern by abutters include cutting of trees, driveway location, increases in noise and traffic, lighting, water, BMP's, chemicals, and overall respect for the neighborhood. There were also questions about Fisk utilizing tap lines in the Town Forest. This led to a greater discussion about the dividing line between agriculture vs. commercial vs. retail business. Board members agreed to revisit zoning to evaluate how to seek a balance that would support agricultural pursuits while offering protection for neighbors/abutters.

Other business:

- Workshop attendance – Lowry reported on several workshops available to board members.
- Correction to Zoning Ordinance – Lowry said a clarification is needed to fix a loophole in the allowed number of bedrooms for an Inn vs. a Bed and Breakfast.
- Sullivan suggested utilizing Plan-Link to explore agricultural research
- Sullivan provided information from a recent Groton wind farm hearing

Barnsley proposal: Board members discussed an upcoming appointment with William Barnsley that is scheduled for October 16th.

Motion by Ayvazian to adjourn the meeting, second by Martin, and so voted at 9:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry

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~ PRESENTATION AT 2013 HARVEST FESTIVAL ~

MASTER PLAN CHAPTERS

- Vision for the Town
- Growth, Land Use, & Housing
- Natural Resources
- Wildlife
- Open Space
- Business
- Agriculture
- Culture & Arts
- Recreation & Trails
- Town Services & Facilities
- Energy & Sustainability

- Also: Demographics, Residences, Historical, Hazard Mitigation

VISION FOR TEMPLE – COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

- Save our mountains
- Improve the trail to the Glassworks
- Save our trees
- Keep the (town) center the same but continue to maintain
- Identify where our good agricultural soils are in town and maybe protect them
- Coffee shop
- Local music
- Old school occupied by business
- More recreation trails
- Bigger Farmer's Market
- Incorporate connecting trails in development
- Work on connecting walking, riding, biking trails throughout conservation land & town owned land