

Place: Raymond High School; Media Center

Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Cantwell, Chairman; Peter Buckingham, Vice Chairman; Jack Barnes, Alternate Selectmen's Ex-Officio; Jonathan Wood; Gretchen Gott; Carolyn Matthews.

Staff Present: Ernest Creveling, Community Development Director; Robert Price, Planning Technician.

Pledge of Allegiance

Other Business

Jonathan Wood requested that the Planning Board take up Other Business quickly to allow Kevin Woods the opportunity to speak to the Board as he requested. The Board agreed to this request.

Kevin Woods informed the Planning Board that a Web Committee has been formed in Town that is looking at redesigning the Town's web site. He asked the Planning Board to begin to think about what types of features and services they would like to see available on the web site, as he will be collecting it over the next couple weeks.

Master Plan Meeting

Jack Munn of Southern NH Planning Commission introduced Patty Dyer, the Director of Sales for Bay State Gas/Northern Utilities to the Planning Board. Ms. Dyer informed the Board that the closest point to Raymond where Natural Gas could come from would be from Brentwood Road in Exeter. She stated there are several different routes to bring gas to Raymond. She noted that the project would be significant, and estimated a minimum cost of \$8-10 million. She estimated that this project would take at least two years to complete, and it would be safe to assume at least 30% of this project would be through ledge. She disclosed that Unutil is in the process of buying Northern Utilities, and suggested discussing things with them as well.

Jonathan Wood asked if Northern Utilities has a Plan to expand their existing service area. Ms. Dyer replied that they typically expand where there is interest.

Jack Barnes asked if Northern Utilities has held discussions with the Town of Epping. Ms. Dyer replied they have held discussions with the Town in the past, but nothing recently.

Jack Munn asked if Ms. Dyer had any experience dealing with intergovernmental cooperation between communities for a project such as this. Ms. Dyer replied that she personally has not experienced it before, but noted it would not be unheard of.

Community Development Director Creveling and SNHPC Consultant Jack Munn agreed to check with Unutil, who is buying Northern Utilities, about their regional intentions, and to also check with appropriate state offices to further explore the procedure for multi-

town cooperation, possible funding methods, and the feasibility of bringing natural gas to Raymond.

Continued Review of Draft Chapters of the Master Plan

Chairman Cantwell turned the meeting over to Jack Munn who directed the Planning Board to review each study, its corresponding focus group report, and then its corresponding goals and objectives.

Jonathan Wood asked that the Vision chapter open with a sentence stating that in cases where the law is unclear, the Planning Board will rule in favor of the town since in such cases the board always seems to rule in favor of the developer. Jack Munn agreed to explore models for this sort of language.

Rather than moving to the Land Use Study, the Board began a discussion of Land Use Goals.

Carolyn Matthews suggested additions to the Land Use goals to help support the combined vision of balanced economic growth and preservation of open space. Peter Buckingham expressed interest in the way this addition would support economic development. Bill Cantwell expressed concern that this addition would call attention to the division in the community over Flint Hill. Jack Munn said that he now better understands where the Board is coming from and would work on this issue.

Carolyn Matthews expressed concern that she had a number of additional items to bring up on each report, some substantive and some editorial. She asked for guidance on how best to present her work to the Board in order to save time. A Board member suggested, photocopy the notes and send them out to the board for consideration. Jack Munn said he preferred that all notes come directly to him and reaffirmed that he did want editorial suggestions. In the ensuing discussion it became clear that Board members disagreed about what constitutes simple suggestions for Jack Munn to consider, substantive suggestions that the Board needs to consider, and suggestions that lie between these two poles. The Board decided that anyone who had suggestions should send them to Director Creveling. Carolyn Matthews passed her notes to Director Creveling.

Jack Munn then suggested the Board review the list of his suggested goals in the Natural Resources Chapter. The Board chose to stay with the published agenda. Jack Munn suggested various other options for proceeding. Chairman Cantwell asked Jack Munn to clarify the process to be used today and in the future.

Jack Munn reminded the Board that the chapters are still very rough, and should be reviewed mainly for content at this stage, and should not undergo such a final review until later.

The Planning Board spent the remainder of the meeting discussing ways to present information within the chapters, and discussed a strategy for how to undertake further review of the chapters.

MOTION: Peter Buckingham made a motion that the Raymond Business and Economic Development Council as well as the Balanced Economic Growth Master Plan Subcommittee should be in attendance on May 22. Carolyn Matthews seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 5-1-0, with Gretchen Gott opposed stating she wants to finish Existing Land Use before carrying on with Economic Development.

Jack Munn cautioned the Planning Board that they are starting to fall behind schedule a bit, and warned if they did not get through at least the Economic Development chapter during the May meeting, then he would not be attending further meetings. The Board agreed that the Existing Land Use Chapter should also be placed on the agenda in case they get through the entire Economic Development chapter.

Other Business

Community Development Director Creveling stated that the Thibeault quarry application was declared to have a regional impact on July 12, 2007. However, it was learned that notices were not sent to the four Towns mentioned, or to Southern NH Planning Commission. He stated that he spoke with SNHPC Executive Director David Preece about this, and he indicated that he is not upset about it since the process is still on-going, and a decision has not been made. Mr. Creveling noted that he is in the process of setting up a meeting with the applicant, his traffic engineer, and SNHPC.

Mr. Creveling added that Mr. Preece sent over a copy of the Development of Regional Impact Guidelines that SNHPC issued a couple years ago. These guidelines note that a DRI determination should actually be made on each project that comes before the Board.

Mr. Creveling noted that the Town has received an Order of Notice indicating that the Town is being sued by the Upper Lamprey Neighbor's Group in regards to the Thibeault Excavation project.

Peter Buckingham noted that he attended Planning Board training at SNHPC recently, and he explained that the suggestions that were made at the meeting by the presenters were items that the Town of Raymond were already doing. He noted, however, that the presenter stated that when on a site walk, the Board should only be dealing with the situation pertinent to the walk itself. He stated that the presented indicated no personal discussions should be taking place whatsoever.

Adjournment

MOTION: Jonathan Wood made a motion to adjourn. Jack Barnes seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Price
Planning Technician