

TOWN OF HARDWICK

PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

July 14, 2015

Members Present: Zoning Administrator Karen Holmes, David Gross, Diane Grenkow, Ken Davis, Shawn Ainsworth, Jim Lewis, and Joyce Mandeville via cell phone.

Members Absent: Dan Bandit

Visitors: Michael Bielawski

6:31pm: The meeting was opened by Karen Holmes, due to Joe Rivard no longer on the board and Dan Bandit absent.

Joyce Mandeville nominated David Gross for Chairman. Seconded by Shawn Ainsworth and was unanimously voted in as Chairman.

Mr. Gross asked for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Ms. Mandeville nominated Diane Grenkow.

Mr. Ainsworth nominated Ken Davis.

Ms. Grenkow respectfully withdrew, and Mr. Davis was unanimously voted in as Vice Chair.

Mr. Davis moved to approve minutes which was second by Mr. Ainsworth.

All approved.

Mr. Gross informed the group how he reviewed the Town Plan looking for all bylaws that contained the words "shall, must, will, and prohibit". He then gave that list to Karen Holmes. Ms. Holmes noticed there were different drafts of the Town Plan made available therefore she will correct the matter and make sure everyone has a current and consistent copy.

Mr. Gross then took the time to explain to the new members the reason for this process and its importance.

Jim Lewis inquired about information he researched online in regards to updating bylaws, which Ms. Holmes responded with an explanation of what the board needs to do and the process to accomplish the task.

Mr. Gross made note to the group that it is the board's responsibility to write the bylaws, and Ms. Holmes responsibility to keep things honest.

Mr. Gross stressed that the Town Plan needs to correspond with the Town Bylaws.

Ms. Holmes will explore her concern that some DRB bylaws should be placed elsewhere, possibly with the select board.

There was discussion around the balance between landowner rights and state mandates.

Mr. Davis expressed concern for board member conflict of interest and wanted to be assured that conflict of interest was non-existent.

Ms. Holmes said she is aware of a petition circulating the town of Hardwick proposing new language of bylaws.

Mr. Davis commented that vagueness of the language in the Town Plan is intentional as it will allow for vision, expansion and growth in Hardwick.

Mr. Gross had concerns that vague bylaws may result in unfair actions.

Ms. Holmes confirmed she will review the list of corrections and asked the board to also look them over. She asked that they look at other town bylaws to see how they are written. She also asked the board members what their hopeful outcome will be and their plan to achieve that outcome.

Mr. Davis asked if State Mandates should be addressed first which Karen Holmes confirmed. Ms. Holmes will contact Flood Management Resource to schedule a meeting.

Dave Gross reiterated the importance of the bylaws being in conformance with the town plan and state statute.

Karen Holmes asked the board if they would like to reschedule the next meeting for August 11th, as she will be unavailable. It was decided to keep the meeting on the 11th with anticipation that representatives from the Flood Management Resource office will be able to attend and answer any questions the board may have. If they cannot make the 11th, Ms. Holmes will try to schedule an alternate date within that week.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken Davis. Second by Shawn Ainsworth.

8:18pm: Meeting Adjourned

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