



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PO Box 120, Windham, New Hampshire 03087

(603) 432-3806 / Fax (603) 432-7362

www.WindhamNewHampshire.com

Planning Board Approved Minutes Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at 7:00pm

Board Members:

Kristi St. Laurent, Chairman – Excused
Alan Carpenter, Vice Chair – Present
Paul Gosselin, Member – Present
Pam Skinner, Member – Excused
Margaret Crisler, Member – Present
Vanessa Nysten, Member – Present

Bruce Breton, Selectman – Present
Joel Desilets, Selectman Alternate – Present
Steve Bookless, Alternate – Excused
Jim Fricchione, Alternate – Excused
David Oliver, Alternate – Excused
Kathleen DiFruscia, Alternate – Excused

Staff: Ms. Scott

Master Plan Workshop

Vice Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and member attendance.

Mr. Carpenter made special mention in remembrance of Nancy Prendergast, who served in multiple capacities for the Town of Windham including service on the Planning Board. He then asked the board to join in a moment of silence and blessings for her family.

Ms. Scott gave a brief synopsis of the agenda. Jack Munn is in attendance to review the community survey results for the Master Plan and the community visioning session. Results are on the website.

Ms. Nysten requested the full survey results be placed directly on the front page of the website. Ms. Scott responded there will be a direct link right from the front page to the Master Plan page and survey results.

Mr. Munn addressed the Board:

1. Discussion ensued regarding the Master Plan survey results which are available on the website. Number and percentage of responses, charts and graphs are detailed.
2. Two survey responses were received after the deadline and the Board should decide whether to include them. Derogatory responses were chosen not to be included. Mr. Carpenter asked the Board whether to include the late responses. Consensus of the Board was to include the two responses, given someone had taken their time to provide input. Selectman Joel Desilets asked if the derogatory responses were included in the raw data. Mr. Munn replied that they had basically been excluded from the appendixes. They were not reportable. Ms. Nysten stated she wished the comments were included for the Boards' review. Mr. Munn stated there were about 10 such responses.

3. Mr. Munn stated there was a long term resident of the community who noticed their response to Question 10 had not been included in the appendixes. Her response was located electronically and stated it is up to the Board whether to add the response to the survey results or not. Ms. Crisler asked why the comment got dropped and Mr. Munn responded he did not know and it must have been missed by an intern and slipped through the cracks. Part of the response was included, but not the whole comment. After reviewing the comments, Mr. Carpenter stated he wasn't sure it was pertinent to the goals of the survey but passed around to the Board for their review also.
4. Discussion ensued regarding the Revision and Goal Chapter report.
 - There were 371 total survey returns. 357 of the 371 were submitted by Windham residents. There was a fairly even distribution, although areas C and D, and particularly D, had the greatest representation. 97% of the respondents are single family home owners. 33% have lived in Windham for 11-20 years. 40% plan to stay in Windham for the next 20+ years. Mr. Carpenter asked if this is unusually high and Mr. Munn replied this is a very high number. Typical age is between 35-45 and 45-54, tied at 29% each. Greatest issues were highlighted and can be reviewed in the report available on the website. Quality of the High School, Rail Trail, and Fire Station received particularly positive mention. Improvement opportunities include addressing School capacity, transfer station hours, and economic development.
5. Public Water and Sewer was discussed at length, including mention of Natural Gas.
 - Mr. Munn stated that a majority of respondents were not in support.
 - The Board disagreed, explaining that the way the "Both" responses were separated from the "Residential", "Commercial", and "None" responses does not accurately reflect the responses of the residents.
 - Discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Board that the "Both" responses should be included in the survey results for each respective category.
 - A clear majority supported Natural Gas, both Residential and Commercial.
 - Mr. Munn will provide corrected numbers.
6. Other topics discussed include desired residential development, economic development priorities, traffic volume, natural resources, and historic preservation, amongst others.
 - Selectman Joel Desilets requested data be provided that allow the public to get granular with the data. An excel spreadsheet to track specific Survey results across a sheet to better understand correlation and causation. Mr. Munn and Ms. Scott replied they will provide this data, with addresses removed in order to maintain anonymity.
 - Mr. Munn stated responses showed that 48% are not in favor of increased Minimum Lot Sizes and 34% were in favor. 58% in favor of a Growth Management Ordinance and 18% not in favor. Discussion ensued that these responses seem to contradict each other and also the wording in the report should include clarification of "Minimum" lot sizes.
 - The economic development, Northeastern CURP survey and the results should be available on October 2nd for comparison.

- Particular mention was made about the desire to have a more walkable outdoor shopping area with the Lynnfield MarketStreet identified as an example.
7. Discussion ensued regarding the Windham Master Plan Community Visioning Workshop.
- Mr. Munn covered the questions and responses recorded at the various sessions and groups on the flip charts.
 - The full presentation may be accessed from the Town website:
<http://www.windhamnewhampshire.com/content/2015-master-plan>
8. The draft update to the Vision Statement chapter was discussed.
- The Vision Statement chapter will be codified as it stands at the end of Phase 1, and it will be revisited before completing Phase 2.
 - Detailing of the changes between the 2005 Vision Statement and Priorities for action list versus proposed 2015 language will be prepared for the Board to more clearly compare.
 - **Selectman Joel Desilets conveyed that Board of Selectmen Chairman Ross McLeod had requested at the last Board of Selectmen meeting that a special remembrance for Nancy Prendergast be included in the Master Plan.**
 - **Selectman Bruce Breton made a motion to include this dedication, seconded by Mr. Gosselin.**
 - **The Board echoed that Nancy Prendergast had worked very hard and was integral to prior Master Plans and this dedication would be very appropriate.**
9. Mr. Gosselin expressed concern that statistics may show the survey results are not statistically significant. Individuals with statistics experience will be reached out to in order to validate, such as Rob Gustafson.
- Ms. Nysten stated she had asked for the Survey to be sent to residents but was told the money was not in the budget.
 - Mr. Breton suggested these could have been sent out for free in either of the Tax mailings in June and July.

Old/New Business (Not to include discussion of pending applications or decisions on matters requiring public notice)

Motion to adjourn the July 30, 2014 Planning Board Meeting made by Ms. Crisler, seconded by Mr. Gosselin.

Motion passed: 5-0.

These minutes are in draft form and respectfully submitted by Joel Desilets, Selectman.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: