

## Groton Planning Board/Master Plan Revision Meeting

March 26, 2014

Present: Chairman Steve (Slim) Spafford, Jenny Burnett, Russ Carruth, Dave LaBar, Celine Richer, Deb Johnson, Sherry Nelson, Ray Blake, and Select Board Liaison Bob Ferriere.

Meeting came to order at 7:05PM.

Minutes of December 11 2013 were read and approved as corrected unanimously except by Bob who abstained; Russ had been marked absent but was present.

Minutes of February 2014 were read and approved unanimously as written, except by Deb, Russ and Bob who abstained.

The only item on the schedule was Master Plan Revision. Deb introduced a draft of the key section of our revised plan that she has been working on. She wanted feedback from the Planning Board before she could finalize her draft Revision. The section is titled "Implementation", and describes in some detail the actions we may take to protect Groton and plan for development that is in line with what residents have said they want. As we have learned this past year, it is much harder to successfully guide and legally defend the Town's future without some reasonably specific reference to goals and actions that can be taken toward those goals in the Master Plan.

According to RSA 674:2, III, it is helpful for Planning and Select Boards to have included in the Master Plan "...An Implementation Section, which is a long range action program of specific actions, time frames, allocation of responsibilities for actions, description of land development regulations to be adopted, and procedures which the municipality may use to monitor and measure the effectiveness of each section of the plan."

Our current Master Plan is very simple and does not adequately protect Groton from development that would threaten the character of our Town. Guidance provided to Town Officials strongly recommends that Master Plans be revised every 5 years, and ours has gone much longer. We have learned a lot about various tools that can be used to protect what is best about Groton and to make improvements where they are needed. The Master Plan is not an enforcement document, but it is the foundation upon which enforcement tools are supported in court.

Suggested Implementation Actions under discussion were many and diverse, ranging from an energy audit of Town facilities to setbacks and frontage requirements. The complete list is available in the Planning Board file at the Town Office. We edited some, changed some, and kept most as is, as they are opportunities to work on desired goals, most subject to vote by residents.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Burnett