

## GROTON PLANNING BOARD

February 22, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 pm

Present: Chair Deborah Johnson, Elizabeth Jespersen, Dave LaBar, and Kyle Andrews (Select Board Liaison)  
Absent: Glen Hansen, Russ Carruth and Ray Blake

Audience members: Slim Spafford, Sherry Nelson, Tony, Otto Jespersen, and Bill Jolly

Dave motioned to delay reading of the January minutes until next meeting. Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed Unanimously.

At 7:07, Deb opened the Public Hearing on the Master Plan. The Planning board had to cancel a work session scheduled for 2/15/17 due to adverse weather. Therefore, suggestions made at the last public hearing in January have not been discussed. There are no changes to the plan at this time.

Deb pointed out that all of the maps for the plan will be inserted by Dan Sundquist and Steve Whitman after review of the plan. A couple of other items need to be completed in the plan including adding a Glossary.

Several questions were asked about the content of the plan. All concerns were addressed and the board took note of suggestions for consideration.

All in all the few public members that were present were very pleased with the new Master Plan. They said it was well thought out, addressed the public's concerns, and felt it would be a good resource for future zoning as well as for new people moving into the town.

Questions involving future zoning were discussed. Of biggest concern tonight was that of putting zoning in place to plan for future growth and what restrains we might want to have in order to protect the land and our natural resources. Deb informed the audience that after elections in March we would be forming a committee of citizens to address future zoning. She pointed out that any resident of Groton is welcome to join the committee to help in the future planning of our town. The board would then discuss any Zoning suggestions that might come from the committee. If Zoning was to be put enacted a Public Hearing would have to take place and the Town would then vote whether or not to accept the Zoning.

It was pointed out and discussed that the large amount of land held in Current Use in the town does not mean that that this land is permanently protected from development. Conservation Easements were also discussed as one means of protecting the land permanently.

The board will continue to work on the Master Plan. It was noted that we will not have it completed in the next couple of weeks therefore we will continue this Public Hearing until March 29, 2017.

Kyle motioned to close the public hearing and the meeting at 8:25. Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Jespersen

APPROVED