

GROTON PLANNING BOARD  
August 30, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Meeting recorded in wav. form for producing of minutes.

Present: Chair Deborah Johnson, Ray Blake, Dave LeBar, Russ Carruth, Elizabeth Jespersen, Sherry Nelson (Alternate), Kyle Andrews (Select Board Liaison)

Audience members present.

Elizabeth made a motion to accept the minutes of July 29, 2017. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kyle. Passed unanimously. Russ abstained.

Deb asked for a motion to make Sherry a voting member of the PB due to Glen's absence. Kyle se made a the motion which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave. Passed Unanimously.

Tonight some members of the newly formed citizen committee on Zoning were present. Those members were Pamela Hamel, Bonnie Lane and Vickie Kimball. Others will be joining the committee at future meetings as well.

Steve Whitman and Boyd Smith were invited back to discuss how the NLRA might assist Groton as we move forward to look into Zoning for the town. The goal of the PB is to bring some sort of zoning proposal before the legislative body at Town Meeting in March 2018 or 2019. Our goal is to bring planning for Town voters to consider which protects individual rights, Groton's environment and preservation of the Town's rural character.

Steve then made a presentation to the board and audience outlining exactly how he and Boyd Smith could help us and at what costs would be shared by the NLRA with the Town. A handout was presented with a breakdown of those costs a timeframe for the services. The estimated cost would be \$15-16K spread over an 18 month period. They would help to defray the cost, possibly as much as 40%. Steve was very thorough in his explanation of what exactly they can help us with and what route we might take to accomplish our goal as we start to look at creating zoning in Groton as we work to preserve the rural character of our town as laid out in the Master Plan.

Many questions and ideas were brought forward from planning board members, committee members and the audience-at-large. As a Planning Board we have many decisions to make in the coming weeks such as a time frame and scope of work.

Next order of business was discussion of a grant that we could apply for that relates to housing. Funds are available for hiring of someone to help with zoning and planning as it may relate to what the Towns desires are for housing. Initially the grant was designed for workforce housing but the scope has been extended to include several other types of housing. Deb feels it is a bit early to be looking at obtaining a this grant when we don't know if we are going to include housing as part the zoning. After discussion between the board and committee members it was unanimously agreed that we should wait until next grant cycle to apply for funds if housing is the focus of any zoning.

Deb asked the committee members when they would like to meet. It was suggested that they pick a night and be consistent with a schedule. Many other citizens' names were brought forward as potential committee members. Deb and Pam will invite those mentioned tonight.

Lastly we set September 27, 2017 at 7pm as a Public Hearing date for the Master Plan.

Kyle motioned to close our meeting at 8:54 pm. Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jespersen

APPROVED