



**PLANNING BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Wednesday, August 1, 2007, 7:30 p.m.**

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Julia Parmentier, Chair.

B. Roll Call

Present were Julia Parmentier, Chair; Pat Moreau, Vice Chair; Helen Hardy, Secretary; Tom Mercier; Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner; and Bradford Gove, DPW Director. Mike Carpenter arrived later. Don Moyer and John Neale were excused.

C. Approval of Minutes

Tom Mercier moved to accept the minutes of June 23, 2007. Pat Moreau seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Tom Mercier abstained.

Tom Mercier moved to accept the minutes of July 18, 2007. Pat Moreau seconded. Tom discussed who should be included in the roll call section. Some corrections were noted. Pat Moreau amends the motion to approve the corrected minutes. Tom Mercier seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Five Year Road Plan

Tom Mercier moved to move the discussion of the Five-year road plan to be next on the agenda. Pat Moreau seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Bradford Gove, Dept. of Public Works Director, asked what the Board was looking for in a five year road plan. Tom Mercier commented that it would be difficult to continue the discussion without a copy of the Five-Year Road Plan before him, and moved to table the discussion until the next meeting. Helen Hardy seconded the motion. Pat Moreau suggested that the May 2005 plan that Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner, had with her could be copied as there was a copy machine in the room. Tom Mercier withdrew his motion. Helen Hardy withdrew her second.

The Board had a lengthy discussion with Brad Gove regarding the current condition of the roads and their construction. Brad reviewed the options for resurfacing which include asphalt, or cold-mix asphalt (creates a flexible pavement) which can be put on top of a deteriorated road surface and can serve as a base for a "hot" asphalt surface. Brad discussed how different treatment work could be done on the same street, and this would be done in order to make sure there was a good base that would last for years before the whole street would have to be resurfaced.

Tom Mercier suggested that Brad update the 2005 plan to reprioritize the needs of the town, and also to include the cost estimates for the recommended improvements. Tom further suggested that he not only quantify the report by the type of roads (dirt, gravel or tar) but also by area or location within the town so it can be determined if there was a problem area that should be addressed. And also to include a summary of roads to be replaced, improved, and those that are okay.

Mike Carpenter stated that the cost estimates would most likely need to be revised on an almost annual basis, however, without those estimates it would be very difficult to determine what sort of monies from the Capital Improvement Fund would be needed to maintain our roads. Mike also stated that it is very important that the Dept. of Public Works concerns itself with the upkeep of the roads and that if it is required to repair or replace roads then that item should be placed on an RFP for bids from outside contractors. At this time, Mike Carpenter referred to, and used, the State Dept. of Transportation as an example in that we see them do the general maintenance but that it is almost always private contractors who do the road construction or major repairs. Mike stressed the importance of this information in order to look at a Capital Improvement Budget at the end of the year.

Brad states that there is an economical way to go about improvements, either by area or by part of town. He further states that he tries to have the DPW crew do all the prep work on the roads that are contracted to be paved. Mike Carpenter points out that there must be a valuation on the improvements if the repaving efforts are to be sold to the Town Council and the townspeople. Brad agreed to return in September with the information requested.

E. Correspondence

RIDEM, Draft of Septic System Regulations regarding ISDS systems, now called OWTS, June 13, 2007. Julia Parmentier suggests that we petition DEM to pre-approve our more stringent setback regulations before DEM approves any plans. Tom Mercier points out that wetlands determination and setbacks are governed by the stream width and therefore, wetlands determinations should be accompanied with the weight of evidence. Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner, volunteers to look into it. (no action)

F. Board Member's Report

None

G. Planner's Report

The grant proposals for the RI Historic Preservation Grant (RIHPHC) and the Borderlands Project Interest Letter have been submitted.

H. Administrative Subdivisions

None.

I. Minor Subdivisions

None.

J. Major Subdivisions

None.

K. Non-Commercial Site Review

None.

L. Old Business

Discussion about having a Planning Board member on the Technical Review Committee. The Committee now consists of the Town Planner, DPW official, Zoning Official, police and fire chiefs and a Conservation Committee member. Tom Mercier volunteered to serve as a representative of the Planning Board when available. That was agreeable to all present. Helen and Julia were uncomfortable having a member of the Planning Board officially on the committee.

M. New Business

Tom Mercier moved to table the New Business until the August 15, 2007, meeting.

N. Adjournment

Tom Mercier moved to adjourn at 9:43. Mike Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy
Secretary