



**PLANNING BOARD – RT. 6 REZONING WORKSHOP**  
**TOWN OF FOSTER**  
**Benjamin Eddy Bldg., 6 South Killingly Rd., Foster, RI**  
**Saturday, January 26, 2008 @ 9:30 a.m.**

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**A. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Julia Parmentier, Chair.

**B. Roll Call**

Present were Julia Parmentier, Chair; Pat Moreau, Vice- Chair; Helen Hardy, Secretary; Mike Carpenter, John Neale, Maureen MacEntee, Heidi Colwell, Marcia Bowden, Deb Marshall, Ann-Marie Ignasher, Planner; Lynne Ryder, Town Council Member; arrived at 10:19 am.

**C. Planner's Report**

KEEPSPACE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE ó This is a grant program offered through RI Housing that the Town applied for with the assistance and guidance of NeighborWorks of Blackstone River Valley (a/k/a Woonsocket Neighborhood Development Corp.). NeighborWorks is a community development corporation that works to bring affordable housing to low and moderate income families throughout Providence County. The Executive Director Joseph Garlick is well known throughout the State for his work in the field. The initiative focuses on ölivable viable communitiesö, the new word for village concepts.

Ann-Marie and Mr. Garlick made a presentation before the scoring committee back in December, and the application received positive feedback from various members of the committee; however, as of this date, no announcements have been made regarding the grant awards.

There were at least three landowners that agreed to work with the Town provided the Town's proposal received the grant award; 1) Hemlock Village; 2) Mr. and Mrs. Pryor; and 3) the Catholic Diocese of Providence. Even though the landowner's have agreed to work with the Town that does not necessarily mean that affordable housing will be built on those sites as there are many variables that must be dealt with and overcome.

If the Town is named as a successful applicant in the grant program then KeepSpace Initiative will provide funds for engineering work at the sites, as well as other foundation work such as community outreach.

Copies of the grant application were available for workshop attendees to review and read. The Planner commented on the amount of time and effort it took for Mr. Garlick to compile the necessary information, and she stated the Town should consider itself very fortunate to have someone of Mr. Garlick's caliber to come forward and assist the Town in such a manner.

Comments and discussion turned to the Providence Journal article that reported Block Island met its affordable housing quota. It was noted that RI Housing had actually bought the property where the affordable housing was being built, and was overseeing the construction and the applicants's (residents) pool for the housing. The Planner informed the workshop attendees that she did indeed have a copy of the article and was keeping it in her files.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WORKSHOP WITH RI EDC ó The First Small Business Owner's Workshop was held on January 9, 2008 at the Foster Center Fire Station, and it was an overwhelming success. There were thirty-six (36) small business owners in attendance, and there were six (6) representatives from RI EDC and two (2) representatives from the RI Secretary of State's Office.

As there were new guests attending this meeting there was a small review done of the prior meeting to bring everyone up to date on where the workshop is going.

The minutes of 11-17-2007 were reviewed. This is the meeting that our Tax Assessor Ann Carlson attended and advised the attendees regarding various real estate tax issues.

Also, we identified three commercial nodes:

1. Shippee Schoolhouse Road / Cucumber Hill Road ó Visitor's Center
2. Rt. 6 /94 mixed use
3. Brayton's/ Village Inn/Sue Ann's/Marty's??

Clean up map of Rt. 6 ó leave in just three zones and remove all zones too small, wet, contaminated or residential. This meeting; press release for public outreach and then do landowner notification. Create a calendar for implementation.

For the rest of this meeting the attendees divided themselves into two separate groups to the work on a press release regarding the route 6 re-zoning meetings and to work on a letter to the landowners that will be directly affected by the re-zoning.

## **Planning Board Meeting January 26, 2008**

After approximately an hours time, the attendees got back together as a single group to go over the press release and the letter, and the group decided that no further editorial work would be done until the next meeting ó as time was getting late, and we still had much to go over.

### **D. Future Agenda Items**

- Wednesday, January 30, 2008 ó Julia Parmentier, Pat Moreau, Heidi Colwell, and Ann-Marie will meet at Town Hall.
- Next meetings will be 2/23 at 8:30 am, 3/29 at 8:30 am, and 4/26 at 8:30 am.
- Letter to property owners ó May 7<sup>th</sup>
- Press Release ó Foster Home Journal, May edition, Bargain Buyer May 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>, Observer, May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Informational Meeting tentatively May 21, 2008, a Planning Board night

### **E. Adjournment**

John Neale moved to adjourn at 12:10 pm, motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy  
Secretary