



PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI
Wednesday: October 2, 2013
7:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

B. Roll Call

Present: Tom Mercier, Mike Carpenter, Julia Parmentier, Joe Carey and Helen Hardy. Sue Mara was excused. Todd Sholly not appointed (no replacement yet).

C. Approval of Minutes

Helen moved to accept minutes of 9/18/2013 as corrected; Julia seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Correspondence and Review

E. Board Members' Reports

Julia went to a dinner with chairs or vice-presidents of RI Planning Boards. Meeting was run by Steve Bruscini. Each community reported on activities and problems.

Julia found this meeting helpful in learning re: projects (solar panel arrays, wind turbine debates, for example). Towns were in all different places on their comprehensive plans.

Affordable Housing was an issue – the way numbers are counted – in all districts.

Land Trust – Mike Carpenter reported that a Land Trust member (Bill Fortier) went to a meeting about the development on the Foster line in Killingly and that it does not seem to be an imminent threat to Foster.

F. Planner's Report

G. Zoning – Opinion Requested

None

H. Commercial Site Reviews

None

I. Administrative Subdivisions

None

J. Minor Subdivisions

None

K. Major Subdivisions

None

L. New Business

M. Continued Business

General Business Mixed Use: Items for consideration for regs.

- Building size
- Design guideline
- Guidelines for residential
- What do these guidelines apply to (individuals/businesses?)
- Types of businesses allowed
- PB members have regs from Exeter and Portsmouth

(5 year) Road and Bridge Maintenance Plan: Postpone to October 16

Agricultural / Residential Zones –Spec Use Permits: consider for future meeting (reg. guidelines from Farm & Forest not small business)

- Remember that granting of Special Use Permits is expected and that the granting sets a precedent.

Gun Shops in Agricultural / Residential Zones: no new info, put on future agenda. For the current special use Licenses for gun sales, it is unclear about who granted the licenses and more actual info is needed.

Communicating / Using Town's Website: n/a

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Planning Board. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the Town Clerk's Office 392-9200 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

O. Comprehensive Plan – Ongoing Work

Planning Board members went through the info provided in our packets and ordered it in the same order as the Comp plan index..

Please can the implementation tables say “Implementation” in the title.

Members checked to be certain we have the same info in the same order. Mike will get binders and tab dividers for each member to be able to keep this material and work from here.

Beginning next meeting we will begin from the beginning and go section by section. If a section needs to be reformatted we’ll assign it to a member(s) and move to the next. We will take out revised sections and replace them with the updated version to try to keep our plans current and organized.

For next time compare old and new plans to make sure nothing has been left out for the Introduction and Economic Development element.

Mike and Tom suggested that submissions for subdivisions should be done digitally. Our packets could be digital as well. This should be on the capital budget proposal for planning. This also could be applied to other Boards.

N. Future Agenda Items

- 1) Update and revise Subdivision Regulations [including Conservation Development]
- 2) Update and revise Zoning Ordinance(s) [including sign regulation, etc.]
- 3) Meeting with various boards and departments
- 4) Discussion of RI General Assembly Bills – letter to Town Council if necessary

O. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. (We discovered we forgot to turn on the tape recorder.)

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy, Secretary