

STRATFORD PLANNING BOARD

2018-03-06: Workshop Minutes-Revised

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 18:34
2. MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel O'Meara, Dennis Corbeil, Wayne Labatte, Vicki DeLalla, Clayton Macdonald, Harry Juergens, Wendy McMann
3. PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 60-70 individuals. No attendance sheet was circulated due to the large number of attendees.
4. Benoit Lamontagne, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs (formerly DRED), Division of Economic Development, presented a program initiated by the federal government via its recent changes to federal income tax law. It allows the States to designate "tracts of land" as "opportunity zones" that provide income tax breaks for businesses that develop those tracts. Mr. Lamontagne stated that the decision on the tracts of land to be so designated in the Town of Stratford was his alone, to be approved by the governor. He cautioned that there are five districts in NH, each seeking to establish such opportunity zones, but that he hoped that the tracts of land he selected will be approved. He also referred to low levels of economic development in Coös County.
Jon Freeman, Northern Community Investment Council presented the role of his organization, some of its history, and what it promotes in the northern region. He cautioned that "over-regulation" might lead to discouraging business investment.
Larry Meservey, MOMS, spoke of MOMS's interest in investing in North Country development and also warned against over-regulation; would not say what specific plans MOMS has, but indicated it would be tourism related and hinted at OHRV related activity. Spoke of the strength and quality of the people as a major asset; asserted a potential to reduce property taxes if new business is attracted.
5. Discussed the upcoming CDBG grant application by NCC and the agreement of the Town, through the Select Board, to sponsor. Noted the requirement for a public hearing and that NCC would be present to assist.
6. Discussed the input received during the draft subdivision regulations revision public hearing. Took each issue raised and considered how the draft revisions could be modified to accommodate each.
7. Recessed for 15 minutes. The chair announced that, due to the large number of people present and time constraints, no public input would be taken at the end of the meeting. Restated that there will be a second public hearing after further changes to the draft revisions of the subdivision regulations and that written comments were welcome. Written comments will be most effective if submitted prior to the date of the public hearing.
8. Started work on re-establishing the Board's rules of procedure.
9. ADJOURNED: 20:38
10. NEXT MEETING: 2018-04-17

Minutes transcribed by: Clayton Macdonald