

STRATFORD PLANNING BOARD

2018-07-17: Business Meeting Minutes

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 18:30
2. MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachael O'Meara, Dennis Corbeil, Wayne Labatte, Vicki DeLalla, Clayton Macdonald, Harry Juergens, Bruce Blodgett
3. PUBLIC PRESENT: Thomas Whelan, Jamie Sayen, Natalie Keller
4. MINUTES: Minutes for 2018-06-19 business meeting were approved 5/0.
5. BUSINESS: Announced that the draft updated subdivision regulations have not yet been returned from being reviewed by the attorney's office. Also noted that the draft currently on the Town's website is one dating from before the public hearing and that it should be removed since it has been substantially changed. Macdonald said he would ask the office to remove that draft. The most up-to-date draft will not be posted until the attorney's review has been completed.

O'Meara/Labatte made a motion to accept the proposed rules of procedures. The following discussion primarily concerned the provision suggesting that applicants for board membership should express interest to the Chair prior to appointment. The danger of the Board becoming a clique was noted, as was the danger of the Select Board also creating cliques. Cooperation between appointed bodies, the Select Board, and the Town was supported. Also mentioned was that it seems reasonable for a prospective member to demonstrate interest by attending meetings or otherwise demonstrating interest. That it has been traditional in the Town for applicants for appointments to work through the various appointed bodies was also noted. Motion passed 5/0

Began discussing the Master Plan and the need to revise & update it. Noted that the current plan was written in 2008 with the most recent updates no later than in 2014. Discussed some of the aspects of Master plans especially with regard to long term outlooks and the fact that they are important guidance, although also nonbinding, documents used not only by the Town, but by State agencies in making decisions; the example of their use in the Northern Pass decision was noted.

Began looking at the various options for starting the Master Plan development process. Discussed charrettes, press releases, and public surveys. Agreed that a good first step is that all board members read the current plan in detail as a basic requirement for starting the process. Considered when to involve NCC. Discussed a suggested timeline of 18 months. Talked about the use of public events for gathering data and public opinion, thoughts, and ideas.

Announced the NCC's next annual meeting, 2018-Oct. 17.

6. PUBLIC INPUT:

Otto Whelan asked why do the subdivision regulations first, before the Master Plan, if the Master Plan is the foundation on which the subdivision regulations and CIP are based. A response was given that the subdivision regulations were last updated in 2000 vs. as late as 2014 for the Master Plan and therefore the subdivision regulations were thought to be the more urgent issue in order for them to conform to changes in State law.

Jamie Sayen noted that if the future New Master plan conflicts with the subdivision regulations, then the regulations can be updated accordingly.

7. NEXT MEETING: 2018-08-21

8. ADJOURNED: 19:44

Minutes transcribed by: Clayton Macdonald