

STRATFORD PLANNING BOARD

2019-08-20: Business Meeting Minutes

1. MEMBERS PRESENT: Denis Corbeil (as Chair), Vicki DeLalla, Clayton Macdonald, Harry Juergens, Bruce Blodgett, Chase Cavazos
2. PUBLIC PRESENT: None
3. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 18:30
4. Accepted the minutes for 19-07-16, Vikki/Harry 5/0
5. Denis called for input on Board procedures. Agreed that further consideration is needed before making any changes. The subject will be held over to the next meeting.
6. Denis opened a general discussion about the Master Plan with special reference to the questionnaire used by Whitefield to gather information about its Master Plan revision. A general look at that questionnaire and the return rate led to an overall favorable opinion, but concern was expressed that it might be overly long, it might not be effective in reaching all types of residents, and the request for demographic information might create some level of suspicion. Clayton offered to make a draft questionnaire for Stratford using Whitefield's as a template. A question asking if people wanted any change at all was suggested.

There was also an extended discussion of the past several decades of the Town's history, noting the gradual aging, population decline, and decline in local businesses and job opportunities. Various notions of how to attract businesses and new, younger residents were put forth with no conclusive sense that any were particularly viable. But the Board expressed the sense that the trial one or more strategies to help the Town toward its goals would be better than doing nothing.
7. NEXT MEETING: 2019-09-17 @ 18:30
8. ADJOURNED: Denis/Clayton, 5/0, 19:50