New Marlborough Planning Board
Wednesday June 22, 2016

Attendees:

Vice Chair: Charlie Parton
Members: Mark Carson, Patricia Hardyman, James Mullen
Other attendees: Jane Tant (secretary)
Lauren Geherty (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission)

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Continuing Business:

Mr. Carson made a motion to nominate Mr. Parton as Chair of the Planning Board for the next year. Ms. Hardyman seconded the motion.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to nominate Ms. Hardyman as Chair for the next year. Discussion ensued regarding proper procedure for nominating and approving officials as well as conducting legal meetings. Mr. Mullen noted the Planning Board adopted Robert's Rules of Order several years ago and provided a guide to Robert's Rules to each member. After further discussion it was agreed that Mr. Parton could continue leading meetings as the previously approved Vice Chair.

Ms. Hardyman made a motion to table action on selection of a Chair for the next year. The motion was seconded and approved.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the June 8, 2016 meeting were approved as amended.

Review of Mail:

Town of Great Barrington Notice of Decision to grant a special permit to Great Barrington Sunoco LLC for erection of a freestanding sign at 190 State Road subject to specified conditions.

Letter from Town of New Marlborough Treasurer requesting holders of accounts make contact regarding carry-over of unexpended funds from fiscal year 2016 to 2017. (Ms. Hardyman noted the Planning Board has two accounts. Mr. Parton said he would coordinate with the Town Treasurer for carry-over of any unexpended balances in these accounts.)

Further Continuing Business:

All members reviewed a drawing provided by Town Administrator Mari Enoch of the new road layouts for Hadsell Street, Umpachene Falls Road and a segment of Canaan Southfield Road adjacent to the Hadsell Street bridge developed by Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Members found the MDOT map lacked sufficient detail to make an informed decision. Ms. Jane Tant, the abutter most impacted by the proposed layout, informed the Board she had referred to her attorney the documents presented to her by the Town. Members agreed to take no action pending further clarity.

Ms. Geherty from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) presented a draft web-based survey of Town residents to be conducted in conjunction with revision of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Members reviewed a hard copy of the draft and made modifications which Ms. Geherty promised to post electronically the following day. Members agreed to review the posted survey and forward any final comments to Ms. Geherty via email.

Board members then discussed the Action Plan from the expired OSRP. Ms. Hardyman stated she did not think it was well focused on New Marlborough and could be better tailored to the specific characteristics of New Marlborough. Mr. Mullen spoke in favor of the previous Action Plan noting it reinforced the Comprehensive Plan. He also pointed out the majority of actions were the responsibility of the Select Board and the Conservation Commission. This led to discussion about how to involve other Town boards and commissions in the process.

Ms. Geherty then distributed a copy of the following new color maps of New Marlborough created with recent data:

- Vegetation and Fisheries and Wildlife
- Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest
- Unique Features

Ms. Geherty noted these maps can be modified to display the data elements selected by Town representatives. For example the "Unique Features" map can include items of historical interest in addition to natural resources. Discussion of the maps focused on the display of conservation restrictions. Mr. Mullen asked if the holders of conservation restrictions could be listed. Ms. Geherty answered affirmatively but noted limitations of the available database citing some missing data on the identity of holders and the duration of restrictions.

Ms. Geherty noted she had begun to update the last version of the OSRP using "track changes". Ms. Hardyman requested that Ms. Geherty send electronic copies of the revised chapters changed to Board members. Mr. Mullen noted that when the Planning Board agrees on a draft document, it should be sent to other Town boards and commissions for review and comment.

Members agreed it would be appropriate for Ms. Geherty to meet with the Board again once the web-based survey has been completed by town residents.

New Business:

Ms. Hardyman reported she had received a letter with enclosed Massachusetts Broadband 123 Network Map from BRPC. She requested that Mr. Parton pass it to the Select Board for their information.

Mr. Mullen recommended discussion of Board goals for the coming year at the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.