

**New Marlborough Planning Board
Wednesday September 21, 2016**

Attendees:

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

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 30, 2016 meeting were approved.

Review of Mail:

Town of Great Barrington Notice of Decision by the Zoning Board of Appeals approving the Comprehensive Permit application of Community Development Corp. of South Berkshire for property at 100 Bridge Street with conditions.

Town of Great Barrington Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing on September 22, 2016 to act on the special permit application of Marcia Stamell and Arthur Yanoff to build a six-foot high fence within the front yard setback at 624 South Egremont Road.

Town of Great Barrington Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing on October 17, 2016 to act on the special permit application of 47 Railroad LLC for the construction of a mixed use development in the Village Center Overlay District at 47 Railroad Street.

Notice of a two-day Community Access Monitor training session presented by the Massachusetts Office on Disability on October 25 and 26 in Chicopee, MA.

Town of New Marlborough Selectboard request for the Planning Board to elect a delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC).

Continuing Business:

Ms. Hardyman nominated Mr. Mullen as delegate to the BRPC. Mr. Carson seconded and the nomination was approved.

Ms. Hardyman distributed for review a draft updated Action Plan for the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Ms. Geherty agreed to review the document adding potential funding sources where a question mark had been inserted as a "place holder" or where she could identify potential additional funding availability.

Ms. Hardyman led the Board in comparing the Action Plan from the Comprehensive Plan with the draft updated Action Plan from the OSRP. She noted several goals in the

Comprehensive Plan that were not included in the Action Plan from the OSRP. One of these goals concerned preservation of heritage trees.

Mr. Mullen stated he has observed that numerous heritage trees along New Marlborough roadways are reaching climax and being removed due to death and decay. He recommended replanting of trees along roadways over the next several years.

Ms. Geherty suggested addition of a goal to the Action Plan for the OSRP to inventory existing heritage trees on town-owned land and public rights of way and to develop a strategy for multi-year sequential tree replanting. Board members concurred and agreed to place this addition under Goal IV Objective B.

Ms. Hardyman also called attention to a goal in the Comprehensive Plan Action Plan to address infestations of invasive species. Mr. Mullen noted that both aquatic and land-based invasive species should be addressed. Board members agreed to add a new goal to the Action Plan of the OSRP. A goal to “inventory invasive plant species and develop a strategy to address them” was noted for addition in Goal III under both Objective B for terrestrial species and Objective C for aquatic species.

Ms. Hardyman noted a goal in the Comprehensive Plan Action Plan to “protect vernal pools.” Members agreed to also place an action item to protect “wetland resources” under Goal III Objective C of the OSRP Action Plan.

Ms. Geherty reported 106 responses have been received and recorded to the Open Space and Recreation Survey. Ms. Hardyman stated she would arrange for one more reminder to be sent out on Maggie’s List. Members reaffirmed their desire to close the survey on October 1, 2016.

Ms. Geherty then distributed a draft revision of the OSRP and noted areas where she had added updated draft language or where she desired comment from Board members. Members agreed to review the section entitled “Summary of Community Needs” after all responses to the survey had been received. Ms. Geherty requested assistance with information on private water supplies in Mill River and Southfield. Members directed her to the appropriate resources to obtain the required information. Mr. Carson agreed to send her information and comments on waste water concerns. Ms. Geherty desired to add historical information on Planning Board efforts since 2010 to define two districts (village district and rural district) in New Marlborough. The consensus of the members was to keep the narrative succinct. Ms. Hardyman offered to draft language on this issue and provide it to Ms. Geherty for inclusion under the heading “Long Term Development Plan”

Ms. Geherty recommended addition of a goal to the OSRP Action Plan regarding construction of solar photo-voltaic arrays. Members agreed on draft language which Ms. Geherty promised to include in the next draft.

Ms. Geherty directed Board members attention to the maps to be included in the OSRP. Members agreed that for Map 5 entitled “Unique Features” should be updated to include all

trail developments on properties of the New Marlborough Land Trust since 2004. They agreed that they did not want to duplicate information already included in the updated Map 7 which identifies land in under conservation restriction.

Ms. Hardyman questioned what was portrayed on the draft map entitled "5 Year Action Plan". Ms. Geherty stated this map should "summarize or visualize the Action Plan." A lengthy discussion followed without resolution to Board members' satisfaction. Ms. Geherty offered to send Ms. Hardyman the criteria for this map laid out in Commonwealth directives as well as a link to the "5-Year Action Plan" map in the Great Barrington OSRP.

Members agreed to hold their next meeting on September 28, 2016. They agreed not to meet on October 12, 2016 (the normal second Wednesday of the month) as Yom Kippor falls on that date in 2016. They agreed the following meeting will be held on either October 19 or 26 depending upon member availability. Ms. Geherty will plan to attend when the date is confirmed. Issues scheduled to be addressed at that meeting are as follows:

- Answers to highlighted areas on draft OSRP
- Content of "5 Year Action Plan" map
- Content of "Unique Features" map
- Date and Agenda of a Public Meeting to present the draft OSRP

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.