

New Marlborough Planning Board
Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Attendees:

Chair: Holly Morse

Members: Mark Carson, Patricia Hardyman, and Charlie Parton

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

Review of Mail:

1. Public Hearing – Town of Great Barrington - on January 25th at Town Hall regarding a special permit for renovation of the Fairgrounds.
2. Notice from White Engineering Inc. to represent Kenneth Unger in the filing of Chapter 91 Waterways Simplified License Application to MA Department of Environmental Protection for installation of a dock at Lake Buel at 138 Woodleigh Avenue, New Marlborough.

Review of Minutes:

Mr. Parton made motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting as amended. Ms. Hardyman seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed.

Continuing Business:

Review of the draft maximum setback and minimum side setback standards for village districts was tabled. The draft revisions to the Protective Bylaws were not available from BRPC (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission).

Mr. Parton noted that he has strong concerns about setting a maximum set back of 35'. He asked if the maximum set back was from the center of the road or the right of way and how many lots will become non-conforming under the proposed set back. Ms. Morse said that the number could be derived from the lot-data compiled by BRPC.

New Business:

DLTA applications: Ms. Morse reported that two applications for CY 2016 DLTA were submitted to BRPC. The first application was submitted under the Priority Funding Area: "Planning Ahead for Growth." The Board proposed to update the New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). A key goal of this proposal is to assess ground water safety within our villages. The second application was submitted under the Priority Funding Area: "Planning Ahead for Housing." The Board proposed to conduct an assessment of housing needs within New Marlborough with particular attention to the need for affordable and market rate housing, especially for senior citizens. Ms. Morse indicated that she did not anticipate that both applications would be funded.

Outreach Business Luncheon: Planning for an Outreach Business Luncheon begin with Ms. Morse stressing the importance of the Board hosting a breakfast or luncheon for local businesses to share our proposed revisions to the Protective Bylaws with community leaders. The “breakfast” would provide an opportunity to build support and obtain feedback. Members agreed that ideal location for the “breakfast” would be the fire department facility in Southfield. Ms. Morse will reach out to David Smith to obtain permission for the use of the facility from the Fire Department and to identify potential dates at the end of January or early February for the event. Schedule considerations then focused on the time of day and day of week. It was agreed that a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10 would be best. Feb 6th and Feb 13th were identified as potential dates. The Board agreed that a handout that summarized the specific changes and our rationale/goals for updating the Protective Bylaws should be available for the meeting. Ms. Morse will draft a document and forward it to the Board for input.

An article for the Five Village News and posting of the documents (“Breakfast” handout and proposed Bylaw changes) on the Town webpage were suggested as other options for building awareness and support.

Mr. Carson asked who would be invited to the “breakfast” – business owners and/or village residents? Ms. Morse indicated that she had envisioned a series of small meetings as a way of learning who supports vs. opposes the proposed changes to the Bylaws, but the primary audience for this meeting was local business owners. Other outreach activities include meetings with the Fire Department, First Responders, and the PTA. Mr. Parton indicated that he would contact the leaders of these organizations to schedule meetings.

FY2017 Budget Requests: Ms. Morse reported that the FY 2017 budget requests were to be submitted by January 8th to the Town Finance Committee. Ms. Morse will work with Ms. Hardyman to submit the budget requests and explanations.

The Board’s next scheduled meeting will be January 13, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.