

**PLANNING BOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
REGULAR MEETING - 4:00PM
MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL, NORTHFIELD
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Steve Seredynski, Chair (SS); Tammy Pelletier (TP); Meg Riordan (MR); Homer Stavely (HS)

Members Absent: none

Others in Attendance: Howard Hastings; Virginia "Jinx" Hastings; Wendy M. Levy, Boards Clerk; Sam Richardson

CALL TO ORDER

SS called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

I. CITIZENS' CONCERNS

a) Howard Hastings, Jinx Hastings, and Sam Richardson appeared before the Planning Board to receive an update on the DLTA funding, and to discuss the Northfield subdivision regulations.

SS said the Selectboard approved the DLTA funding. FRCOG won't fund the subcommittee, but they will send a representative to the next Planning Board meeting (on March 19) to provide assistance and information, and they will continue doing that throughout the summer.

To prepare for the FRCOG rep's visits, SS and HS advised the three subcommittee members to continue their review of Montague's regulations, compare them to Northfield's, note where Northfield's needs changes, and prepare a report of their findings. HS said the board could use this information when seeking legal advice to possibly draft new subdivision bylaws.

A discussion ensued on the bylaws and the future work of the subcommittee.

b) Jinx Hastings noted the town's website shows an incorrect time for the Planning Board meetings and asked that it be updated. SS said he would address that.

c) SS reported on the campground litigation. No new information will be released until June 30, when the pretrial hearing takes place. SS noted this litigation does not involve the Planning Board; it's between the litigants and the Moody Center.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

SS asked the Board to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2020 meeting. There were no amendments and no discussion.

**MOTION BY HS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020. MR SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

III. OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED BY BOARD MEMBERS

- a) HS reported on the Council on Aging's recent activity and meeting.
- b) HS reported on the recent Franklin Regional Planning Board meeting. Jan Ameen, Executive Director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, gave a report about the cost of recycling. HS expressed concern for the long-term ramifications of what Ameen reported.
- c) HS noted Buckland recently issued a report at the Franklin Regional meeting on stormwater issues. He took notes and will soon share them.
- d) HS spoke on water and sewer issues, and noted that how the town manages these two items will affect the town's future. SS noted the 1977 Northfield Master Plan recommended the town purchase the water district. That has not happened. HS added this is why making—and using—a Master Plan is important.
- e) SS reported on the recent activity of the Business Park Committee. He said they met with the Selectboard, presented their plan, the Selectboard approved it for DLTA funding, and FRCOG also agreed to fund it.
- f) SS reported on the recent Emergency Services Building Committee meeting. "We are stuck," said SS, explaining the lack of a suitable location, which is mostly because the town has so many wetlands.

IV. NEWS

SS announced the non-partisan caucus meeting for running for office at the next elections will take place on March 17. He noted two positions on the Planning Board will be open, including his, as his term ends in May. A discussion ensued on SS running again. SS noted that the caucus meeting's quorum requirement is 25 people, and he encouraged everyone to bring someone to the meeting.

SS distributed two newspaper clippings.

SS announced a meeting to review municipal vulnerability preparedness planning, on February 27. He said there's potential to get state funding to reduce vulnerability to things like natural disasters.

V. ONGOING MASTER PLAN REVIEW

SS pointed out that in 1993, the town reviewed the 1977 Master Plan. He copied the review and distributed it. SS said he will meet with the Selectboard to discuss the Master Plan review.

HS shared his work on reviewing goals 5 & 6 of the Master Plan. He looked over some of those sections' objectives and sub-objectives, including: the town government study committee, and what work has already been done; broadening the volunteer base; and maintaining clear channels of communication between the government and residents. He discussed the work he's done so far on this, and some of the challenges.

SS asked the group to develop a simple structure for presenting information on the Master Plan review, and suggested looking at the 1993 review. A discussion ensued, including noting in the review what projects the town has done and not done from the Master Plan. MR said that a table would be a helpful

structure to organize the review process, and it could include sections such as: what's the goal, has it been met, and a simple explanation. She said she will create it.

VI. ANY TOPICS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING


None.

VII. ADJOURN. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 19, 2020 AT 4P.M.

SS noted the Planning Board will try to maintain a regular schedule of meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 4p.m.

MOTION BY SS TO ADJOURN AT 5:22PM. TP SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Submitted by Wendy M. Levy from minutes taken by Wendy M. Levy.

 9/8/2020