

Open Space/Master Plan Committee Minutes**Town Hall, Banquet Hall****Minutes of December 3, 2008**

Members Present: Gwen Broz, Sarah Heller, Cindy Scott, Tim Simon, William R. Simpson

Members Absent: Cheri Carty, Phil Chaffey, Sharon Mahoney

Also Present: Jonathan Church (Consultant)

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Chair Cindy Scott.

1. Public Hearing December 10 on Economic Development and Housing. Jonathan explained that as much work as possible on Economic Development Chapter needs to be completed by Dec. 31 to be covered by the grant. After Dec 31, it will be come out of our contract funds. However, he feels that we have some savings due to the fact that they have been able to take a lot of information for Open Space from the Heritage Landscape Report. Because time is short, Jonathan had already talked with Donna and posted an Economic Development public hearing for Dec. 10 and advertised it in The New Leader.

2. Two more meetings scheduled for December. We agreed to hold 2 more meetings in December in order to try to finish this chapter as much as possible before the end of the year. Sarah will post meetings with the town clerk for Dec. 17 and Dec. 29, both at 6:30pm.

3. Discussion about the Dec. 10 hearing. It will be a joint hearing on Economic Development and Housing (one hour for each topic). Jonathan explained the format and gave us four handouts with preliminary economic data. For the Housing portion of the hearing, Jonathan will bring background information about Chp40B and statistics about current housing stock. Boards good to involve in the housing chapter are, among others, Housing Authority, ZBA, Building Inspector and Planning Board

Members present agreed to make phone calls and personal visits to any business people who may be interested in attending Dec. 10. Tim will go to businesses on Rt. 9. Sarah will do Central St. and send emails to Browse the Brookfields and Chamber of Commerce. Gwen will talk to Quaboag Equipment and others. Cindy will talk to Paul Benjamin, Mark Ledoux, Greg Braccionier. Bill will ask Donna to broadcast an email encouraging town officials and board members to attend.

Jonathan said he would try to get us a draft Dec. 15 or 16 so we can discuss at our next meeting (Dec. 17).

4. Approval of Minutes. Cindy moved and Bill seconded that the minutes of July 31, August 14, September 12, October 22 and November 12 be approved as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously. Sarah will forward the approved minutes to the Selectmen.

5. Update to Planning board: Bill excused himself from the meeting to attend the Planning Board's meeting and give them an update on our progress. He has been doing this as much as possible to keep them in the loop since we have no active member from the Planning Board.

6. General Discussion about involving town boards: Gwen suggested we schedule meetings with different boards. Bill said that we could go to the various boards' meetings and present drafts of the various chapters (or send the draft via email before meeting). Tim agreed that we should go to the boards rather than have the boards come to us. There was discussion about each member going to a different board since time is tight.

7. Adjournment: Bill made a motion to adjourn. Gwen seconded it. All in Favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Heller, Secretary

Date approved by the Committee: December 29, 2008

Date submitted to the Selectmen's office: January 11, 2009