

Planning Commission Meeting
December 6, 2011

Present:

Members: Chico Martin, Kris Perlee, Sue Kavanagh, Ken Weston, Bill Sayre, Skimmer Hellier, Willow Wheelock, John Elder

Others Present: Mary Arbuckle, NEAT TV, Jen Stetson, Adam Lougee

Public: Slim Pickens, John Moyers, Chris Shaw, Joel Bouvier, Andrew Stein

Chico called the meeting to order at 7:08 with all members present.

1. Public Comment:

Chico began public comment with an apology to Slim. He had made the decision before the meeting that public comment would be limited to the agenda items and didn't realize that what Slim wanted to discuss was something that would have been discussed later in the meeting.

John Moyers: John Moyers referred to a Front Porch Forum piece written by Peter Grant regarding the history of public comment. He summarized the piece, and suggested that perhaps with the discussion of zoning regulations and the many elements that relate to that have public comment for each part. He later then expressed his disappointment that there is no dialogue, just public comment.

Slim: Thanked Chico for the apology and expressed his surprise to see that later in the meeting the map the consultant pulled out was in fact the map he wanted to comment on. With the idea that the Planning Commission is here to serve the citizens it seemed to Slim that they would consider what the citizens of Bristol want. He felt that the Planning Commission was not listening to the public at all because they just sent the plan to the Selectboard without taking into full consideration what the public had expressed that they felt was important about gravel extraction.

Joel: Joel noted that each Selectboard member had reviewed the tape and after further discussion the board made a public statement that has been given to the Addison. He expressed his gratitude for the board and commended them for their hard work through the tough job, and the board supports the Planning Commission.

Willow: She stated that she agreed with John Moyers in the frustration of the dialogue, and suggested that the board re-evaluated how this process works. She also reassured Slim that the board discusses the comments that are made, but realistically the board can't make everyone happy. She felt the board represented a diverse spectrum of the community and thinks the board is doing its best to accommodate a majority of the town.

2. Administrative Matters:

Chico handed out a letter to all the members of something they had received prior to the meeting. He felt that with Tom Wells resigning from the board he would like to encourage the board to reconsider the organization of the meeting for the Planning Commission and eventually adopt their own rules and procedures for the next year. This process would be a continuous part of the Administrative part of each meeting in hopes of creating their own set of rules and procedures for each meeting. The group reviewed and discussed a document made by Ken "Excerpts and comments regarding Planning Commission duties and guidelines."

Chico then passed out an email chain that John Elder had written in response to Tom Wells. In the email John Elder had made a motion and Chico then asked John Elder to withdraw the motion. John withdrew the motion that was on the table.

John then discussed his concerns with the maps that have been so controversial and is asking the group to revisit. John read a piece (see attached). Chico noted that the reason that the plan has not been submitted to the Selectboard is due to the length of time it took to complete the revisions of the Town Plan and the maps. Each member then discussed their reaction to John's statement to the group. Once everyone finished, Chico wanted to schedule a meeting for January 3rd, to discuss the maps with the meeting starting at 7:30 in hopes to end at 9.

3. Ken moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 15th meeting, Kris seconded, all approved.

4. Adam Lougee then lead the meeting reviewing what was discussed at the last meeting while then everyone gathering the maps that each member has. Adam passed out a map that he has recreated for the group to discuss, this map was created based on the discussion from the November 15th meeting. Chico suggested that the group accept the maps that were given and wait to discuss those on the January 3rd meeting. In reference to the traffic patterns that was discussed last meeting Adam's suggestion was: "...further," strike it is not the intent, "...continue with this district should maintain and expand the structure and character of the village. It will not promote strip commercial development business. Businesses with high rates of traffic generation shall be required to demonstrate how they will fully mitigate traffic impacts on public roads."

The group decided to keep the entire statement Adam had created striking the word "fully," before the word mitigate.

General Business (Salmon Color on the map): Kris felt the zone for General Mixed didn't really fit the current and perhaps future land uses. He felt that this zone could fit within the Rural Mixed zone. Each member of the board got a chance to discuss whether they agreed or disagreed with this suggestion. Chico summarized what he had heard the group discuss, the general business district needed to be included, but needed to perhaps be redrawn on the map based on the discussion that has been had. Chico thought that what is new tonight is finding a way to combine both rural mixed and general business. Willow expressed her concern with the goal behind the General Business district.

Adam asked each member to look at the this map and based on the districts available what they would like changed for the boundaries and their rationale behind it. The deadline for this is January 8th.

Chico noted we have a meeting January 3rd at 7:30, hopefully concluded by 9, discussing maps. January 8th, Adam's assignment about the General Business District, January 17th regular meeting.

Chico moved to adjourn at 9:33, Kris seconded, meeting adjourned.