

Town of Jefferson
Office of the Planning Board

Minutes
May 25, 2021

Members present: Acting Chairman Gil Finch, Jason Call, Donna Laurent, Gordon Rebello, Bob Roy, alternate

Absent: Chairman Michael Meehan, Kevin Meehan, Selectmen's representative; Wayne Kellner, alternate

Others present: Charlene Wheeler, Board secretary; June Garneau, Olin Garneau

In the absence of a regular member, Bob Roy was designated a voting member for this meeting.

Minutes

A motion was made by Donna Laurent, seconded by Bob Roy to approve as read the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting. The vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

Consultation – Master Plan – June Garneau

The Planning Board continued work on the Master Plan by first reviewing a draft June Garneau had sent to the members of all the work completed so far. Particular attention was paid to Chapter 8: Recreation and Trails which was edited at the Board's last meeting. Acting Chairman Finch asked about the title of "building inspector" as the town does not have one designated as such. There was also a discussion about what is an "activity" and what can be considered an "event". These two categories sometimes overlap. Work then began on a new Chapter 3: Community Facilities. June said she needed to contact Norman Brown to confirm information for this section. June showed the Board three successive pictures of the town hall to highlight its history, the second photo showing the addition of the town offices and bathrooms to the original building and the third showing the fire which recently consumed the hall. She asked if there was an official cause of the fire but everyone said they had not been given any official word of the cause. June also asked if the Jefferson Community Center was the official name of the new location of the town offices, etc. now in the former elementary school. It is being called that now but nothing official was ever stated, it just started being used. The offices currently operating in the building were listed and some of what is being planned.

Nothing is quite clear yet as to what or where everything finally will be situated. Town boards, departments, and committees as well as such groups as the Boy Scouts and the Gem and Mineral Society are meeting in the building but it is unclear about access rules for other groups at this time. Attention then turned to Chapter 9: History, Culture & Historical Resources. Some groups have been active in the past but curtailed because of the Covid pandemic. A quilting group would meet in the town hall regularly, there was a children's reading program at the town library, and an adult book club at one time. There were other local groups that met as well but over time have been incorporated as part of more regional ones in Lancaster such as the Masons, Eastern Star, The Knights of

Columbus, Rotary, Lions Club, etc. The grange was active at one time but no longer. There are books chronicling the town's past by George Evans and a more recent one by Rupert Corrigan which give information about the town's origins and history over the years. It was suggested June contact Joe Marshall for more specific information, the Jefferson Historical Society should be of help. June said she has more work to do and would have more to share with the Board on these two new chapters when they meet once more. The Board plans to meet again with her on June 22. She said the Board members would receive another updated version of the Master Plan draft after tonight's meeting. It was also mentioned Dave Gavatski would be a good person to contact on the natural resources chapter. June and Olin thanked the Board and left the meeting

Communications

The Board secretary reported there is a Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting on June 10 to hear three applications, two asking for a Special Exception to operate home-based business and one for a Variance asking to replace a non-conforming trailer with a cabin.

A copy of a building permit was circulated. No comments or questions were added to the new routing sheet the Select Board has instituted.

Copies of Selectmen's minutes can be read on the town's website and any questions brought to the next Planning Board meeting.

Donna Laurent asked again about another volunteer willing to take over as representative to the regional transportation committee. Board members said they would accept her withdrawing from the position if she chooses to do so even without a replacement as she has gone above and beyond to keep serving. The Board secretary was asked to contact Julia Gilmore again to see if she was still interested in serving on the Board as an alternate and also to check on alternate Wayne Kellner who has been ill for some time.

Unfinished Business

The Board's next regular meeting date is June 8.

There being no further business, Bob Roy made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Donna Laurent. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Charlene Wheeler
Secretary to the Board