

Town of Jefferson
Office of the Planning Board

Minutes
July 14, 2020

Members present: Donna Laurent, Jason Call, Gordon Rebello, Wayne Kellner, alternate
Absent: Gil Finch, Michael Meehan, Kevin Meehan, Selectmen’s representative
Others present: Charlene Wheeler, Board secretary; June Garneau, Olin Garneau, Bruce Hicks

In the absence of a regular member, Wayne Kellner was designated a voting member for this meeting.

This was a “virtual” meeting using the Zoom platform. Appreciation went to Board member Donna Laurent for again organizing the meeting which allowed the Board to meet more safely following state guidelines.

Bruce Hicks was welcomed to the meeting as a citizen who may be interested in joining the Board as a member and who had been invited to this meeting.

Minutes

Gordon Rebello made the motion to approve as read the June 23, 2020 meeting minutes, seconded by Jason Call. The vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

Financial Report

The Board secretary shared information from the latest numbers as of July 6 but recommended the Board not act on accepting the report as she had some questions about two of the entries and wanted to get clarification from Kathi Marshall first before bringing it again before the Board..

Master Plan

June Garneau joined the Board to continue work on the Master Plan. A discussion followed about what the schedule will now be moving forward. As with so many other things the COVID crisis has made deciding how to proceed problematic. It was decided since it still isn’t feasible to have a large gathering of people the power point presentation and vision statement comments be made available on the town’s website and Facebook. before a public. Mr. Kellner again expressed concern that not it is not known how many in the town had access to the internet. Hard copies of survey results will be made available by appointment at the town office and the town library. Posters will be put up to announce this as well as flyers prepared for handouts. Primary Day on September 7 would be an opportunity to get the word out. Board members still did want a public presentation at some point as they felt it was important to hear questions and comments that may come from the public attending. People need to be more informed about the town’s Land Use Ordinance, Subdivision Procedures and Regulations, and how the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment operates.

Ms. Garneau said she is working on the chapter on transportation and will send a draft to Board members to read and then bring comments and edits to their next meeting. Information needed to be confirmed about recreational trails running through the town. These trails are used for snowmobiling, dog sledding, cross country skiing, hiking, etc. Who owns each of these trails and who is responsible for their maintenance? There still is a railroad bed used periodically by trains. The state now has ownership of abandoned railbeds running through the town.

Ms. Garneau requested an updated list of Board members, information about the flood plain ordinance, the capital improvement plan, and the number of registered voters in the town. The Board secretary will send that information to her. Ms. Garneau also requested sources of information on the town's history, the Historical Society an important one, of course. Two books on the town's history, both available at the library, were recommended. The librarian should be of help as well.

Ms. Garneau will next meet with the Board on August 11. The Board thanked her and Olin Garneau and they signed off from the meeting.

Hearing – Continued – Kenison Campground

The Board secretary reported there were no updates.

Communications

There were no building permits to be examined.

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

The Zoning Board of Adjustment granted a variance to Glenn Colburn for an addition to a structure which would be closer to a lot line than allowed in the Land Use Ordinance. His lot is on Ingerson Road near Belle Hunt Road.

The Select Board will be requesting a joint meeting with both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment to discuss issues. Board members thought this was a good idea.

There may be a consultation coming up on a possible two-lot subdivision on John Walker Road.

Unfinished Business

The nominations of Wayne Kellner and Bob Roy to become alternate members of the Planning Board were approved by the Select Board. Jason Call's nomination to move from serving as an alternate to become a regular member was also approved. The reappointment of Gil Finch and Donna Laurent to new 3-year terms as regular members has been approved as well. The Board secretary said she has reminded Kathi Marshall the oath of office forms needed to be given to the town clerk so those appointed can take their oaths. She will check to make sure she has them.

Bruce Hicks said he thought the Master Plan Survey had some great questions but an important one he thought missing. How does the town plan to pay for all the costs and services needed in the years ahead. Property owners already have a big tax burden. Young people are having a hard time finding affordable housing. The town needs to look at innovative ways in its planning besides setting a lot size and road frontage in the Land Use Ordinance. He referred to some of those described in handbook called Smart Growth. Donna Laurent agreed these were valid concerns. Board members said they would welcome his viewpoint in any discussions. Mr. Hicks asked for a copy of the survey results be sent to him to read and the Board secretary will so. He said he will decide about taking on Board membership after another meeting takes place.

Mr. Kellner inquired about camping on Rt. 115B past the Israel River Campground in a field near the river. There is a state RSA 216-I such activity. The Board secretary will check on the property. He also inquired about camping on the Jefferson Notch Road but that is controlled within the National Forest Boundary with reservations required. There was a question about a

dwelling on Valley Road that Mr. Hicks said the town had tried to address a few years back but was legally unsuccessful.

The Board's next meeting will be on August 11. Gordon Rebello made a motion to meet in person in the town hall but other members wanted to take a wait and see approach as to where things stood closer to the meeting date. The July 28 Board meeting is cancelled.

Jason Call made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wayne Kellner. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Charlene Wheeler
Secretary to the Board