

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

MAY 16, 2012
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Camilla Lockwood, Allan Pickman, Ken Sullivan, John Kieley, Rose Lowry, and Randy Martin

Call to order by Lowry at 7:36 p.m.

Lisa Murphy of SWRPC / Master Plan: Guest speaker Lisa Murphy from Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) spoke to the board to offer advice on their upcoming revision of the town's Master Plan (MP). She provided a brief history of her background in planning, and offered to be a primary resource during the update project. Murphy had previously reviewed a copy of the current MP and stated it serves as a good base and the chapters were easily reviewed, and nothing seemed to be missing except for a Vision section. Murphy had been able to preview a list of questions forwarded to her before the meeting, and provided a written copy of her responses. She suggested several other reference sources, including the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) website, the NH Housing website, SWRPC and NH-DOT maps, and 2010 federal census data.

Murphy discussed how to approach the update and stressed the importance of getting the community involved. Some suggestions included surveys, round table discussions, forums, visual presence at local public events (i.e. Fourth of July, Harvest Festival), and creation of a design charette. Murphy also mentioned the importance of keeping the town's Site Plan Review and Subdivision Regulations updated as well as the associated checklist. Other topics brought up for thought and conversation included drafting a Large Wind Energy System (LWES) application form, use of and payment for consultants, stressing the importance of scenic areas and viewsheds, possible grant funding availability, the results of a previous public survey on the village area, an upcoming TEEC presentation to introduce "transition adaptation" to promote sustainable communities, the continued struggle to get broadband available to all areas, the continued growth in size of land use documents, making the MP document less intimidating and more useful, workforce housing and current lack of large development, issue of foreign companies buying up water and wind rights and a potential need for lobbying or legislation, and a recent unsuccessful move to dismantle state Regional Planning Commissions (RPC's).

Murphy summarized her presentation by saying the Master Plan is not a regulatory document but a general guide for the community. She continued that the document can be used as a reference to support the town in land use decisions, as well as a resource for other boards such as the Selectmen and Conservation Commission. Public input is important, and a well written and organized document will best serve the community. Murphy will forward information on the community planning grant and application procedure.

After Murphy left at 9:00 p.m. the board continued to talk about how to approach the MP revision. They discussed budgeting, availability on-line as well as in print, using SWRPC to help with maps, reorganizing and streamlining chapters, obtaining public participation, and inclusion of new chapters i.e. Open Space, Natural Resource Inventory, Energy, and Water Study. At the next meeting on 6/6/12 the topics will be narrowed down, and the summer meeting schedule established.

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Approval of Minutes: Move by Kieley to accept the minutes of 05/02/12 as written, second by Sullivan. Prior to voting there was mention of a statement in the minutes that referred to megawatt measurement of wind energy, which led to a brief discussion of the general validity of these types of measurement values. There was also general conversation about the ISO-New England connection to wind energy projects through their oversight of transmission lines and the power grid. Upon a vote, the minutes were unanimously accepted as written.

Audubon Society: Kieley said he and Sullivan had met with the NH Audubon Society and established a relationship. Carol Foss would like to meet with people in Temple on Tuesday the 22nd at 10 a.m. Also, the Bat and Raptor Association representative has been contacted. Lockwood thought this information could be included in the Natural Resource Inventory section in the Master Plan.

Move to adjourn by Kieley, second by all, and so voted unanimously at 9:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry