

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

NOVEMBER 7, 2012
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

Call to order by Lowry at 7:38 p.m.

Public Forum: Lowry welcomed the audience and said the forum was being held to involve residents in planning for Temple's future. She noted the differences between the town's Zoning Ordinance (rules) and Master Plan (guidelines), and indicated the results of the recent survey would help formulate which direction to go in. She also explained the recent Community Planning Grant award, and how this would enable the town to utilize professional help to review language and consistency in its land use documents. Lowry explained the importance of having ordinances in place to guide the type and location of future development.

Lisa Murphy from Southwest Region Planning Commission then introduced herself and explained the type of help she is providing to the town. She reported Temple has "a good Planning Board", and used a PowerPoint presentation to share survey results in a graph format. Murphy indicated there were no surprises in responses, although there seemed to be some confusion or misunderstanding over the Smart Growth concept.

At this point an audience member asked about the timing of mailings and notification of meetings, questioning why the Planning Board is undertaking this work now and wondering if there is some kind of development pending. Lowry, Ayvazian, and Murphy all contributed responses of explanation. Lowry mentioned two separate levels of work in which the Planning Board is involved, the first being a project to reach out to the public to obtain input and feedback regarding potential zoning changes. The second project is undertaking the extensive process of updating the Master Plan, culminating near the end of 2013. In response to a question about why the public does not get to vote on the Master Plan, Pickman explained that the state dictates the procedures, with a public hearing held before the Planning Board votes. Ayvazian indicated the Master Plan is a visionary document and not a mandate.

Lowry next had the audience break into small groups to discuss six pre-designated topics developed by the Planning Board. Each group had one board member as facilitator, and preferences were visualized on large pads of paper. Areas of interest/concern were to be listed as 'more-of' and 'less-of'. The top three responses were briefly summarized by the facilitators as follows:

Ecology/Wildlife	1) water	2) open space/trails	3) public open space
Money/Business	1) small retail	2) professional services	3) local foods
Character	1) keep as-is	2) create trail system	3) café/community gathering spot
Housing/Population	1) affordability	2) keep young people	3) services for elderly
Cultural	1) steering committee	2) recreation outdoor comm.	3) community events comm.
Community Facilities	A vision for the future: municipal space, move Highway Department, expand library, adequate storage for town committees, building for Historical Society, improved parking at Town Hall, non-motorized trails, increased recreational opportunities.		

Lowry thanked everyone for their participation and said the information will be reviewed, and public input will be considered regarding possible zoning changes. She also invited the public to attend regularly scheduled Planning Board meetings.

Move to adjourn by Ayvazian, second by Lockwood, and so voted at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry