

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD  
Minutes of the Meeting- March 24, 2014

Present        David McKenzie, Chairman  
                 Christopher Maple, Vice Chairman  
                 Jeffrey Rose, Ex- Officio  
                 Sam Cohen  
                 Peter Martel

Chairman McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted as amended.

Chairman McKenzie noted that the Manley case received a variance from the ZBA. The Board recognized that as they had not continued the case, it will need to be re-noticed for the Planning Board. As the Planning Board did not continue the case, the Planning Board will pay for the cost to re-notice the abutters.

Chairman McKenzie reported that he has had feedback from Barry White about the Master Plan questionnaire. Barry White reviewed the questionnaire and stated that it took him 10 ½ minutes to answer the questions and that is too long. Sam Cohen suggested that the questionnaire have a disclaimer stating that you do not need to answer all of the questions. The Board discussed ways to get the questionnaire out to the public. Peter Martel suggested having it online, but that there is no control of who is filling it out. Jeffrey Rose shared the survey he received from Washington. It had a control by way of a key code. Washington has used a service called survey monkey and given the incentive of a raffle drawing for those who complete the survey. Chairman McKenzie will ask the LGC for guidance on how to proceed. If the Board can provide an on-line survey, Peter Martel will work on it. It was suggested that the Board ask local businesses for raffle prizes. The Planning Board will show the survey to the Selectmen before it is sent out to the public.

Peter Martel brought up a concern about the sharing of information with the ZBA. The Planning Board cannot share information before a case, but they can be a part of the public at a Public Hearing.

It was noted that the Planning Board will have a Hearing for a lot line adjustment on April 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. A meeting will be held directly after the Hearing. There will be no meeting on April 14, 2014.

Peter Martel suggested that a commercial District be located on Route 202. The need for a 3 acre lot could also be re-visited.

It was noted that the Harris Gravel Pit has not yet received a renewal from the State. The Town permit ran out in December. A letter will be sent to Mr. Harris addressing the need to update his permits or the property will be posted to cease excavation. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to the Selectmen.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Belcher  
Planning Board Recording Secretary