

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD  
Minutes of the meeting- March 23, 2015

Present        David McKenzie, Chairman  
                 Christopher Maple, Vice Chairman  
                 Jeffrey Rose, Ex- Officio  
                 Sam Cohen  
                 Donald Trow

Chairman McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted with a minor amendment.

The Board reviewed the procedure for submitting an application to the Planning Board. It was suggested the Planning Board hold a chat session with the applicant at the time that the application is submitted. The initial chat session is an informal session. It was also suggested that the required time to schedule the Public Hearing should be shortened from 15 days as Planning Board holds meetings at 2 week intervals.

It was noted that new Planning Board member Donald Trow was sworn in before the beginning of the Planning Board meeting. Jeffrey Rose nominated David McKenzie as Chairman of the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Sam Cohen and all were in favor. Sam Cohen nominated Christopher Maple as Vice Chairman of the Planning Board. Jeffrey Rose seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Chairman McKenzie noted that Frankestown Sand and Gravel has an excavation permit that is expiring on April 30, 2015. Chairman McKenzie will call to remind them. The Hardwick gravel pit also will need to be renewed in August.

The Planning Board continued to work on updating the Master Plan. Edits were made to the Future Land Use section to reflect the results of the Master Plan Survey. Changes will be made to reflect slow growth. It is estimated that the growth will be around 7%. The Planning Board will ask the Fire Chief about possible deficiencies of the fire station. The library is small and has structural deficiencies. It was noted that there are plans for work on the VFW this year as well as the second part of the sidewalk project in the downtown area. The completion of the

Transportation Enhancement Project as well as bridge replacement and culvert replacement will be noted.

The Planning Board will obtain census data to check for trends for the Economic Development section of the Master Plan.

Minor changes will be made to the Traffic and Transportation section. It was noted that State law prohibits building on a class VI road unless specific conditions are met and the Selectmen agree.

It was suggested that it should be noted that according to an analysis it was indicated that Bennington has provided its share of work source housing. Multifamily units are provided in the Village District. A minor change was made to the Administration section adding elected entities.

It was noted that a culvert survey and analysis will be done by South West Regional Planning in 2015 which will include all the culverts in Bennington's roadways.

It was noted that the Planning Board should revisit multiple uses on a lot. It is possible that the Planning Board could present an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for mixed uses on a single lot within the Village, Commercial and Rural/Agricultural Districts.

It was noted that Donald Trow will need a Planning Board notebook for the next meeting.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher  
Planning Board Recording Secretary