

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting- December 14, 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 7:10 p.m.

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

The board discussed the progress on the Master Plan. They have received the 5 to 10 year plan from the Cemetery Trustees, the Water and Sewer Commissioners, the Library, the Police Department, and the Town Office. The Board is still waiting for information from the Recreation Department, the Fire Department, the school, the Highway Department, the Solid Waste Department, and the Historical Society. It was noted that the School District information can be obtained from the annual report. It was noted that many charts and graphs are on PDF's, but the information is not of the nature that there have been substantial changes. The Board discussed ongoing issues with roads such as North Bennington Road and the poor condition of Whittemore Lake Road. It was noted that both Route 31 and Route 47 have been repaved in the past year.

Changes made to the Traffic/Safety section include the Transportation Enhancement Project which narrowed the Main Street. An improvement to the intersection of Eaton Avenue and Bible Hill Road is scheduled for 2016. The Board voted to delete the line stating "safety issues on North Bennington Road".

It was noted that under the heading of Bridges and Culverts, a culvert at the north end of Bible Hill Road was rebuilt. A correction was made noting that the Depot Street bridge is owned by both Antrim and Bennington. This bridge was replaced in 2013 /2014. Chairman McKenzie will access the town-wide culvert assessment done by South West Regional Planning Commission for use in the Master Plan.

Road improvements have included State Route 31, State Route 47, and State Route 202, as well as improvements to Bible Hill Road and re-surfacing of Pine Meadow Circle with pug mill.

It was noted that in the 2005 Master Plan, the Town had 5 farms. There are currently many small scale farms in Bennington.

A Public Hearing for Zoning Amendments was scheduled for January 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bennington Town Hall.

The Planning Board voted to cancel the December 28, 2015 Planning Board meeting.

A Public Hearing for Harwick and Sons excavation renewal was scheduled for January 11, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bennington Town Hall. The Board will receive the plans and application and continue directly into the hearing for the pit renewal.

The Board received a copy of a letter sent to the Selectmen from Sam Cohen concerning the request from the Conservation Commission from the Planning Board's support of a Natural Resource Inventory. Sam Cohen moved that the Planning Board should not support proceeding with a Natural Resource Inventory. Christopher Maple seconded the motion. Jeffrey Rose noted that he supports the theory of the accumulation of natural resource information. The Conservation Commissioners had come to the Planning Board to ask for their input on the proposed project. The Planning Board voted not to support proceeding with the Natural Resource Inventory. The motion passed 3 to 2 ( yes- Sam Cohen, Donald Trow, Christopher Maple no— David McKenzie, Jeffrey Rose).

Chairman McKenzie reminded the Board that there will be no Planning Board meeting on December 28, 2015.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher  
Planning Board Recording Secretary