

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting- July 18, 2016

Minutes approved on- August 8, 2016

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

Guests Thomas James
 Bethany Craig

Chairman McKenzie called the Public Hearing for the Master Plan to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Board presented an overview of the 2016 update of the Town of Bennington Master Plan. This included a presentation of key points of the update as well as a slide show highlighting the information. It was noted that a Master Plan is required to have a Vision Statement and a Land Use Section. The information to update the Master Plan was obtained from the US Census. It was noted that the State has slated the Railroad bridge to be removed in the next ten years. This bridge is currently part of the trail network in Bennington. Other highlights included an unknown status of the VFW building, a plan for dry hydrants in Town, a lack of facility for youth detention in the Police Department, and a rating of 23rd highest tax rate in the State of New Hampshire.

The public present expressed concern about open space in Town as well as vacant housing units and housing for the elderly. Mr. James suggested that some sort of incentive might be offered to keep property and households in good order.

Donald Trow made a motion to accept the Updated Master Plan as written. Sam Cohen seconded the motion and all were in favor. The Board signed the 2016 Master Plan and the Public Hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

The Planning Board meeting was opened at 8:13 p.m. to discuss the transfer of the Harris Gravel Pit to Donald H. Hardwick Trust. Chairman McKenzie made a motion to approve transferring the Town Excavation Permit for Map 3, Lot 1 from Harris Construction to D. H. Hardwick & Sons pending proof of a reclamation bond in the amount of \$21,250, bill of sale, and State approval of the transfer. All conditions and restrictions attached to the original permit shall stay

in effect. The permit shall expire on January 31, 2019. Donald Trow seconded the motion and all were in favor.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher
Planning Board Recording Secretary