

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2010
HOMESTEAD DINNING ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Gadbois, Kyle Lothian, Doug Clark, Judith McLaughlin, Clark Hubbard, Dan Larivee, Peter Kittell, and Gregg Bouchard.

OTHERS PRESENT: Heidi Britch-Valenta (Franklin Watershed), Sara Rainville, Secretary.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Clark/Dan to approve the minutes from June 15, 2010. Dick asked if there was any further discussion, none had. All voted in favor, minutes accepted as read.

FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE:

Dick welcomed Heidi Britch-Valenta to the meeting.

Heidi would like to inform the PC of some upcoming events that the Watershed Committee is hosting. -Rain Garden demonstration, July 24, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. @ camp 23 & 41 Camp Road
-Septic Workshop & Forum, July 31, 2010 from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. FELCO Room

Heidi encourages all members to attend the above events with their questions & comments.

The Watershed Committee would like to work with the PC on their vision of septic systems around the lake. Dan noted that the PC is currently working on that. Heidi also noted that the State has become more accepting of composting toilet systems.

Kyle mentioned how clear the Lake currently is and thanked the Watershed Committee for all the work that they have done.

Dick stated that he received 2 letters from the Town Clerk's Office on 2 new septic systems that the State approved; the PC never hears anything about these permits until the State has already approved them. Peter stated that the Town can have someone appointed to oversee these projects but that it has to be in the Zoning Regulations, otherwise the Town is left out of the loop all together.

Dick further noted that RV's seem to be going in on the Lake all over the place and that they are installing septic systems without State permitting. This is becoming a real problem that needs to be addressed. Heidi advised that the PC should contact VLCT; they could send someone to the PC meeting to help in writing/wording of an ordinance to give the Town more oversight with septic plans/installations. Peter commented that it takes about 60+ days for an ordinance to get reviewed and adopted, there have to be warned public meetings, newspapers postings, etc.

Enforcement also needs to be addressed with the Select board, there needs to be enforcement on the Zoning Violations at the Town level. Sara read the violations section from the Zoning Bylaws to the PC. Clark would like there to be a clear process to be used for issuing zoning violations. Judy will review the current enforcement plan and have input for the PC at the next meeting.

Dick reminded the PC that Alburgh does not have any Zoning, it was voted out. Judy stated that zoning is primarily about soils and growth.

Heidi informed the PC that there has been a committee formed to look at the different ways to address the milfoil issue at the Lake. Currently it looks like the best solution is an herbicide due to the size of the Lake; the Lake covers 1400 acres and approximately 300 acres have the milfoil on it. The Lake Carmi Campers Association recently approved spending \$8000 to do a survey on the Lake. Dick asked if the weed harvester encourages growth and Kyle replied, yes, it absolutely does. Heidi noted that the weed harvester just makes the Lake useable, it does not solve the problem, the Lake is past the point of the harvester being an effective control method. Gregg inquired as to if they make a bigger weed harvester and Peter replied that they did, some lakes have numerous one's working together.

Heidi told the PC that the LCCA, Watershed Committee and Ted Meunier attended the last Select board meeting with a proposal that they Town take over the North End beach and boat launch area. The above groups would also maintain the property. The idea would be to have Fish & Game lease the boat launch area. The groups would also like to designate that area for a Greeter Program for boaters. It was noted that many small towns with lakes have a greeter program that is either self funded, grant funded in part or volunteer staffed.

Heidi thanked the PC and exited the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Camp Conversion Committee:

Everyone has received a draft. Dick would like to put it off until the next meeting so that everyone has adequate time to review and make notes. All members agreed. Once the PC reviews and approves the next step would be to send it to the Select board for review and approval. Dick would just like to be sure that anything the Town states does not interfere with any State requirements. Dick would like to provide all applicants with: ANR project review sheets and the "Do I Need A Permit" brochure from the State. Motion was made by Kyle/Clark to approve of including above 2 items with all building permit applications handed out by the Clerk's office. All in favor, motion passed. Two items were given to Sara to photo copy and attach to building permit applications.

Building Permit Committee:

Copies of the proposed building permit were sent around to all members present for review. It was noted that there was not a section for the ZA to fill out with his permit number, other changes were also discussed. Kyle will make the changes for the next meeting.

Municipal Education Grant:

The training that was scheduled for July 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Homestead Dining Room was cancelled due to the presenter having a medical emergency over the weekend. The Town Clerk's Office is working on re-scheduling and will let everyone know of the new date once set.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Doug would like to know if the PC wishes to get involved in the Morses Line Border closing and send a letter of support in keeping in open. Peter noted that the Select board already sent a letter voicing their disapproval of closing the border crossing. Motion made to send a letter to DHS and other involved parties that the PC

supports keeping the border crossing open. 5 members approved, Dick and Dan abstained from voting, Clark, acting chairperson did not vote. Motion approved, Judy will draft a letter and send a copy to all members.

Next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2010.

Motion made by Kyle/Clark to adjourn the meeting. All members in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

July 21, 2010

Sara Rainville, Acting Secretary

Note: These minutes are not final until approved by the Planning Commission at their next regular meeting.

DRAFT