

MINUTES OF FRANKLIN SELECT BOARD & PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012
HOMESTEAD DINNING ROOM

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Magnant, Kyle Lothian, Yvon Dandurand and Wayne Laroche.

OTHERS PRESENT: Katherine Dimitrik (NRPC), Shaun Colman (NRPC), and Sara Rainville (Secretary).

Peter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

DOCKS:

Peter stated that Lisa had been in contact with the VLCT legal department as well as insurance department in regards to a one day dock at the lake for the July 3, 2012 LLCA festivities. VLCT had advised that it's a huge liability issue, anything that can will go wrong will; very high risk. Peter questioned the board and if they want to encourage boating and swimming in the same area at the North End of the lake. Wayne advised that swimming is the main draw at that location. The board agreed to keep their previous position & decision in regards to docks at the North End beach, they are NOT permitted. All members agreed.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING:

Town Plan-

Katherine Dimitrik and Shaun Colman were welcomed to the meeting from Northwest Regional Planning. Katherine advised that NRPC has received the Select board's approval of the "Town of Franklin Municipal Plan". The staff at NRPC is recommending to its board that the plan be approved at their meeting next week; they have used their checklist to make sure the plan meets all the State requirements and it does. By having this plan in place and approved, it enables the Town access to planning grant funding. Peter noted that the summary Katherine gave the board shows some things as incomplete, will that be a problem? Katherine stated it would not, we still meet all the State requirements; those recommendations are for above and beyond the State Statues. NRPC recommends updating/renewing this plan every 5 years. Katherine stated that NRPC is required by the State to hold *Enhanced Consultation* visits with their participating Towns.

Development Regulations-

Peter questioned how the approval process works for adopting the Development Regulations draft and the timeline in which the Select Board has to act. He feels that there are many references to Vermont Statues that also make the document confusing as you have to go look them up, they are not in the document itself. Katherine advised that the board has one year in which to adopt the current draft, if not done in that timeframe, the process starts over. Wayne questioned waiting until Town Meeting to have a Town wide vote for approval. Katherine responded that is a possibility but would not recommend it. She also stated that she would be more than willing to come to the public hearing and Select board meetings to answer any questions that the board or public may have on the draft regulations.

Other-

Shaun Colman stated that the Town is in National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance and that we also have a EOC Plan that was updated in April 2012. By having both of these things completed, it enables the Town and Town entities to be eligible for grant funding for items such as radio equipment, thermal imaging cameras, etc. Shaun noted that there is currently a grant available for updated radio equipment; the Town of Franklin has applied for and received this grant. Shaun questioned whether or not the Town had completed the NIMS survey through VEM. Sara believes that Lisa has done so online. Shaun also suggested updating the County Mutual Aid agreement in the near future.

Peter turned the meeting over to the Planning Commission.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Clark Hubbard, Dan Larivee, David Lucey, Gerard Tremblay and Greg Bouchard.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lucille Rainville and Hugh Gates.

Clark called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Clark questioned where the Town Plan was at in the approval process. It was advised that it had been approved by the Select Board and sent to NRPC for their board's approval. NRPC staff has recommended to their board that Franklin's Municipal Plan be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by David/Gerard to approve the minutes from April 17, 2012. Clark asked if there was any further discussion, none had. All voted in favor, minutes accepted as read.

OLD BUSINESS continued:

Clark asked the Select board if they had questions on the current draft of the Development Regulations. Peter advised that he is not as familiar with them as he was with the Town Plan and does not feel comfortable approving them yet. Clark stated that by having NRPC attend the public hearing to answer any questions would be the best way to understand it all. Clark urged the board not to take too long to approve the draft as the PC had worked very hard to get it to this point in one year's time, he would hate to see all that work go to waste as has been the case with two other draft updates that did not get Select board approval. Katherine stated anytime you have a hearing and make changes to the document you have to hold another hearing. She also thought it would be beneficial for a PC member to attend the hearing to answer any questions that she may not know the answers to.

Lucille questioned where the maps come from that are in the Town Plan and Development Regulations. Katherine advised that NRPC has a staff person that does all the GIS mapping in house for them. Lucille pointed out another map changed that affected her property in regards to endangered species. Katherine explained that was an overlay change by the State and that the legend may have changed as well. Wayne noted that endangered species is handled by the State. Hugh also commented on the endangered species map. Clark closed the discussion.

Peter questioned why the Zoning Regulations had been updated two or three other times but never approved/adopted. PC stated it was because of previous members on the PC not wanting to work with the Select board to make changes. Greg stated that when a reference is made to State Statue and it's not in the document, it makes the document much shorter; even though not always easier to understand. Katherine stated you want the document to be clear and enforceable.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING:

Katherine questioned what the Town boards are currently working on; is there a need for specific trainings? Clark stated that there is a new methane digester going in at the Benjamin Farm.

Seasonal conversions to year round was discussed as well as waste water permits and potable water systems.

Peter stated that the Select board would like to update the current dog ordinance in Town; Katherine advised that NRPC could certainly assist the board with that. Board would also like to take a look at the leash law and possibly reword the boundaries that are currently in it.

Clark suggested that the Zoning Administrator may need additional training on the Town Plan and Development Regulations once adopted.

Sara noted that there has been a surge in people wanting to convert seasonal camps to year round residences before the draft Development Regulations are adopted; the ZBA approved two conversions at last month's hearing and there is another hearing set for July with five more applicants; Sara also commented that she received two more applications on Monday. Katherine advised the board that they could adopt interim Development Regulations until they have review the entire document, just adopt a section of the regulations. This interim adoption would be good for two years. Hugh questioned where the request for seasonal conversions updates in the regulations came from. Kyle stated that the idea was to help people who were living at the lake year round already to become compliant and have an approved/engineered septic system. Since the amendment was made State septic laws have changed and the Town has no say over anything waste water or potable water related. Wayne inquired to what the intent was of the board in regards to the Shoreland district. Is it to keep the character of the lake, to reduce the strain on Town services and/or to prevent more lake pollution? All would be reasonable explanations. Katherine reminded the boards that the regulations should be realistic and fair.

Peter will send dates to all members for a potential public hearing date for the Development Regulations; he would like NRPC and PC members to attend to answer any questions that may arise.

Kyle/Yvon made the motion to adjourn the Select board meeting. All in favor, motion passed. Select board adjourned meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Clark stated one of the main issues is enforcement on year round living at seasonal camps.

Lucille brought up the septic study in regards to the Black woods camps.

MAIL:

-To be discussed at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

Next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2012.

Hugh questioned when the PC changed to a seven member board from nine. PC replied after Town Meeting.

Motion made by David/Greg to adjourn the meeting. All members in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June 20, 2012

Sara Rainville, Acting Secretary

Note: These minutes are not final until approved by the Select Board and Planning Commission at their next regular meetings.

These minutes were approved by the Select board on July 10, 2012.

These minutes were approved by the Planning Commission on July 17, 2012.