

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 19, 2014

Note: Draft Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by the Sub-Committee. Review and approval of Minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The June 19, 2014 meeting of the Swanzey Master Plan Subcommittee commenced at 5:00 p.m. at Swanzey Town Hall. Present were: Glenn Page, Scott Self, and Don Skiba. Sara Carbonneau, Director of Planning and Community Development, was also present.

Utilities – Carbonneau provided printed information regarding FastRoads. It was noted that much of that information can be included in the Master Plan Update. Carbonneau stated that she would try to obtain additional information regarding broadband [in general] from the NH Broadband Mapping Project (cable and DSL).

Ownership and operation of utilities was discussed. It had been assumed by many that a goal in the prior master plan was to create a utilities division under the control of the public works department. However, upon further review, that was not the recommendation. The specific recommendation contained in the 2003 Master Plan Update was to “combine all community water services into one Town Water Department.” In addition, the 2003 Master Plan stated that the North Swanzey Water & Fire Precinct was [in 2003] “exploring and testing a working relationship with the Town’s Public Works Department. If results of this initial collaboration are successful, the Precinct may consider a long-term relationship with the Town.” There were no recommendations in the 2003 Master Plan Update to incorporate the sewer commissioners’ functions and its staff within the Town’s public works department.

Skiba stated that should the Town take control of sewer/water, it should be part of a Utilities Department – separate from public works. It was noted that a Utilities Department would likely require additional engineering expertise.

Self stated that the “municipally” managed water and sewer utilities in town seem to be working well – essentially, if they aren’t broken – don’t try to fix it. It was noted that there are often advantages with keeping the sewer/water budgets separate from public works (i.e., the budgets can’t be raided in times of financial hardship).

Radio Communications - Carbonneau will check with Bruce Bohannon for updated information.

Decided that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 31st at 4 p.m. as a joint meeting with the Swanzey Water Study Committee. Meeting will be held at Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Submitted by,
Sara H. Carbonneau
Secretary to the Committee