

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Swanzey Planning Board
Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2015

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

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Planning Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Glenn Page. Members present: Glenn Page, June Fuerderer, Scott Self, Jane Johnson, Jeff Goller, Joe Smith, Selectmen's Representative W. William Hutwelker III, Alternate Don Skiba, and Alternate State Representative Jim McConnell.

Absent: none

The Chair took the roll and read aloud the agenda for the meeting.

Others Present: Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau, Theresa O'Brien and Kenneth Bergeron.

Minutes:

- Minutes from April 9, 2015 were considered. There was a **motion** by Fuerderer to approve the Minutes of April 9, 2015. There was a second by Goller. No further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Regional Impact: Board members considered whether any items on the agenda could be construed as having the potential for regional impact. **Motion** made by Fuerderer that nothing remaining on the agenda could be construed as having the potential for regional impact. There was a second by Smith with no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS -

- 1. Multi-Tenant Application** – Theresa O'Brien wishes to use the premises situated at 140 Monadnock Highway for a pet grooming business. The property is shown at Tax Map 18, Lot 69 situated in the Business District. The property is owned by Kenneth Bergeron. O'Brien was present to talk about her proposed business. The packet distributed to the board indicated no issues from Code Enforcement and Department Heads. The Board noted O'Brien's application indicated there will be one full-time employee, and an estimate of four customers per day. Delivery by FedEx once a month. Open Sunday through Saturday. Signage was discussed. There is an existing sign. Bergeron said the business will be using one section of the existing sign. Carbonneau noted use of the sign will come before the Board when they are ready to discuss the signage.

Motion was made by Self to approve the multi-tenant application of Theresa O'Brien to use the premises situated at 140 Monadnock Highway for a pet grooming business at property shown on Tax Map 18, Lot 69 situated in the Business District. There was a second by Fuerderer. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

B. DISCUSSION/OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Office of Energy and Planning (OEP)'s conference** – J. Goller reported on the conference. He spoke about the topics discussed at the conference including the fact that not many people are moving to New Hampshire. Census indicates slow growth in population. New Hampshire is the third oldest state in the USA in terms of the ages of the population. Cheshire County and one other county have the oldest populations in the state. The type of housing that is available was discussed at the conference. There is a shortage of viable homes for the elderly. With population shrinking there will be less students in the schools, and the population may shrink to the point of resorting to regional fire stations. He spoke about second homes which people tend to retire to in New Hampshire. Solar power was discussed at the conference. Goller spoke about guideline materials for permit process for solar power. Goller spoke about the master planning workshop he attended. He said one question that arose is how a Master Plan is used at a Planning Board meeting. Carbonneau said the Master Plan was updated in 2003 and that has influenced the thinking of Planning Board members. Goller said an implementation plan could be an adjunct to the Master Plan.

2. Municipal Facilities Review Committee

Skiba spoke about the Municipal Facilities Review Committee charged by the Board of Selectmen to take the Capital Improvements Program committee report and come up with a plan with a fresh look, using the information provided by the consultants. The committee will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and targeting 60 days for results to be delivered to the Selectmen. Skiba mentioned the names of the members of the Municipal Facilities Review Committee and also mentioned Steve Bittel 's revised financial plan. Skiba spoke about the safety issues associated with having the Fire Department in the basement of Town Hall.

Page spoke about the West Swanzey sewer history and how the sewers were voted down twice. He said it was finally passed by the voters on threat of weekly fines from a Federal Judge. Page mentioned looking at facilities from the point of view of what is adequate for 15 years instead of long term like 30 years since the voters would not accept long term planning.

3. Safford Drive Completion & Ribbon-Cutting Event

Page noted that painting of the road is planned for next Tuesday. Carbonneau asked for one more person to assist with cooking food for lunch during the ribbon-cutting event on May 29, 2015. She expects 60-80 people and there will be transportation available from the ribbon-cutting location to Keene State College Camp.

4. Center for Advanced Manufacturing at Keene State College

Carbonneau spoke about attending Representative Annie Kuster's event – showcasing the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at Keene State College. They discussed challenges for business development in Southwest New Hampshire. Carbonneau said the event participants stated that Cheshire County is projected to have the lowest economic growth in the state, comparable to Coos County, which is actually getting more attention than Cheshire County.

5. Young Entrepreneurs Academy

Carbonneau mentioned the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA) event that she attended. She spoke about retaining young people to get them involved in the New Hampshire economy. She mentioned Carmen Lorentz from the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED)

who will be speaking at the May 29th ribbon-cutting event for the opening of Safford Drive. Carbonneau mentioned that DRED needs to pay more attention to this portion of the State. She also noted that the NH Tourism Council meeting was held locally recently.

McConnell spoke about the need to attract business and noted good equipment available for Keene State College for entrepreneurs. He said New Hampshire is competing with other states which have zero corporate tax rates.

6. State Investment in Colleges

Carbonneau said a major problem for Keene State College is getting money (from the state) for professors. McConnell said there is hostility toward funding the University of New Hampshire. McConnell said money provided in the past was given for bonuses and for a football stadium. Page said stadiums drive funds from alumni who buy season tickets. He said that the consensus from alumni he knows suggests that with a better stadium, alumni would be more responsive with donations and attendance to sporting events.

7. Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce

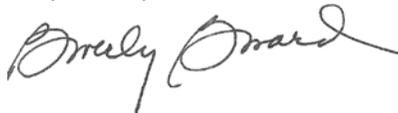
Carbonneau mentioned that the Town of Swanzey has joined the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce with the goal of trying to broaden the focus of the Chamber to communities beyond the City of Keene. She emphasized there is a need to grow the region, not just the city, to benefit the entire County.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Smith, seconded by Goller, with all in favor. **Motion passed.**

Adjournment occurred at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary