

Grafton, NH Planning Board

Minutes 27 May 2021

Present: Angus Gorman (Chair), Gary Whitney (Secretary), Emelia Cushing, Sabrina Kirwan, Thomas McGinty, (Selectboard ex-officio), Rich Angell (alternate), Paul Vogt, Denise Vogt, Brian Fellers, Catherine Mulholland, Maureen O'Reilly

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm by the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of 22 Apr 2021 were unanimously approved as amended by the addition of comments requested by the Chairman.

Correspondence:

None

Business:

The Chair initiated further discussion from the last meeting regarding the review of the subdivision regulations. Ms. Kirwan presented copies of Alexandria regulations obtained from research she had undertaken. She indicated that all other town regulations besides Grafton were significantly longer in length than the current Grafton version. Since the intent of the board was to simplify and clarify the regulations the consensus was that it would be more appropriate to start with the current 2006 Grafton regulations and review and revise them as appropriate, even though the approval status of the 2006 version has been questioned.

Subsequent discussion concerned use of past (via Vicky Smith, Nov 2004) and potential future consultation and feedback from the Upper Valley / Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and the local government center in Concord for legal (RSA) and planning advice. It was decided that the local government center would be a more appropriate resource for Grafton if/when it was determined such advice was required. Mr. Gorman indicated he would forward a copy of Ms. Smith's comments to the board for review and use as appropriate.

The Chair then made motion to review/modify the 2006 regulations and hold a public hearing later this year. The motion did not receive a second, but the following discussion indicated that the consensus of the board was to perform the review and hold a public hearing as required without committing to a definite timeframe at this point.

It was decided that the board would begin the review with sections 1 to 6 and discuss for the next meeting.

Mr. Gorman then presented the contents of an e-mail from Judith Kushner regarding notification to the NBRC of the situation involving the Planning Board and the Mascoma Valley Preservation Society as discussed at the 22 Apr 2021 Planning Board meeting. Mr. McGinty indicated that the Select Board has already initiated action to notify and address this issue with the various entities involved.

Selectboard ex-officio report:

No updates, but Ms. Cushing inquired about previous discussion on the designation of a Planning Board representative to the new Library Planning Committee. It was reiterated that Mr. Whitney would be acting in this capacity.

Public comment:

Mr. Angell inquired about the specifics of anticipated changes to the subdivision regulations and Mr. Gorman discussed such possibilities as the exemptions that currently exist. Brian Fellers gave further input on the background of the exemptions and further discussion centered around possible clarifications to them.

Paul Vogt inquired about the availability of Planning Board minutes. It was clarified that final approved minutes are available on the town website and that the town clerk usually can provide both final versions and preliminary (not yet approved) versions subject to approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Angell and Mr. Gorman then debated the appropriateness of certain planning board regulations.

The board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:05 pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Gary Whitney, Secretary, Grafton Planning Board