

Grafton, NH Planning Board

minutes 22 July 2021

Present: Angus Gorman (chair), Gary Whitney (secretary), Emelia Cushing, Sabrina Kirwan, , Thomas McGinty, (Selectboard ex-officio), Rich Angell (alternate), Brian Fellers, Denise Vogt, Paul Vogt

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of 24 June 2021 were approved subject to a minor modification to add an attendee by a vote of 4-0-1.

Correspondence:

A Voluntary Merger application was received from Conor and Kimberly O'Mahony. (see below)

Business:

A Voluntary Merger application for Map 15C lots 392 and 365 from Conor and Kimberly O'Mahony was reviewed, discussed and approved by a vote of 4-0 with the Chair abstaining, subject to verification of appropriate payment of the applicable fee.

In addition, a proposed future modification to the voluntary merger application that states and verifies receipt of the proper fee was discussed. It was agreed that this change should be considered as part of the application update process currently being considered per the discussion below.

Further discussion of the Mascoma Valley Preservation (MVP) letter discussed at the April, 2021 Planning Board meeting was then initiated by the chair with a proposed draft planning board letter intended to summarize and provide a more concise description of the issue so that organizations involved with the subject grant and the MVP would be better informed when dealing with the MVP in the future. With input from former board members Rich Angell and Brian Fellers, the current board discussed and edited the proposed draft and came to a consensus on the content as follows:

To whom it may concern:

The attached letter was neither written by nor endorsed by the Grafton Planning Board. The letter was written by an individual who believed the planning board would not be in support of the letter. The letter was altered to appear as though it was sent by the Grafton Planning Board.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to endorse the above described letter with the original letter as an enclosure with the intent that it be kept on file for further use by the town as appropriate.

The proposed changes to the subdivision application were then considered. The chair provided proposed updated copies to support discussion of such. It was stated that the goal was to have two documents – one for a lot line adjustment and another for a subdivision application since the two are treated separately. The board addressed this goal and other concerns.

The question was raised as to why there needs to be a distinction made between a major and minor subdivision. The Chair agreed to seek the input of the local government center on this question.

There was further consensus that the application and updated regulations should be addressed and approved together as a package at a future date when they are both ready for a public hearing.

Selectboard Ex-officio Report

A question on the topic of scrapyards and the town junkyard ordinance that was addressed at a recent Selectboard meeting was asked and discussed. Another question regarding conflict of interest in connection with a vote taken at that meeting was also asked and addressed.

Library Strategic Planning Committee

A summary of the June meeting of the committee was provided. Feedback from the board was requested. Personal opinions of some of the board members were offered and were generally favorable to the committee's approach to the process and with consideration of changes to the mission statements and visions but there was no consensus voiced to provide an endorsed planning board position as such.

A motion to adjourn was made and unanimously approved at 8:31 pm.

Taken and submitted by Gary Whitney, Secretary, Grafton Planning Board