

AMHERST PLANNING BOARD
Wednesday, June 17, 2009 PM – 5:30 PM
Town Room, Town Hall
MINUTES

PRESENT: Jonathan Shefftz, Acting Chair; Richard Howland, Bruce Carson, Denise Barberet, Jonathan O’Keeffe, Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham, David Webber (5:45 PM)

ABSENT: Eduardo Suarez, Stephen Schreiber

STAFF: Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director; Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner; Sue Krzanowski, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Shefftz, Acting Chair, opened the meeting at 5:37 PM.

I. MINUTES – Meeting of June 3, 2009

Ms. Barberet said that she had just returned to town and had not been able to read the Minutes.

Mr. Howland MOVED: to adopt the Minutes as submitted, with the provision that Ms. Barberet be allowed to offer amendments if necessary once she is able to read them. Mr. O’Keeffe seconded, and the vote was 4-0-2 (Barberet, Pavlova-Gillham abstained).

II. OLD BUSINESS – None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Town Meeting – Signing of Attorney General Forms

The members present signed the forms to be submitted to the Attorney General for the zoning amendments and the Mullin Rule adopted at the Annual Town Meeting (Articles 6, 7, 8 and 9).

B. Summer Meeting Schedule – The Board scheduled the following upcoming meetings:

July 15	August 19
July 29	September 2
August 5	

IV. FORM A (ANR) SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

The Chair endorsed the following:

ANR2009-00009, 146 Mill Lane – Trustees of Amherst College
ANR2009-00010, 853 Belchertown Road – Bonnie D. Smith

VI. UPCOMING SPP/SPR/SUB APPLICATIONS – None

VII. PLANNING BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Zoning – Mr. O’Keeffe reported on the walkabout for the Main/Dickinson/High Street rezoning proposal. About a dozen participants offering many different viewpoints joined the Subcommittee last Wednesday, he said.

The Subcommittee is also continuing to work on a proposal for a Neighborhood Business District (B-N). Mr. Tucker said that the B-N District would be a step down in intensity from a village center district. It would create small mixed use zoning districts to serve existing neighborhoods.

After a question from Ms. Brestrup and discussion, the Zoning Subcommittee decided to meet next on July 15, not July 1.

V. UPCOMING ZBA APPLICATIONS

The Board will not review the following:

ZBAFY2009-00039 – Kanit Bonnag (Thai Corner)

VII. PLANNING BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

- B. **Master Plan** – Mr. Carson said that the Subcommittee is reviewing the transportation chapter and will then move to the final chapter.

Mr. Tucker said that he would email the members to set the next meeting.

Mr. Shefftz asked when the Board would be adopting the Master Plan. Mr. Tucker said that after all the chapters are reviewed and the land use policy map completed, the Board should undertake a final review and then finalize the process to adopt the plan.

VIII. PLANNING BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission** – Mr. Shefftz asked if Mr. Howland was still the Board’s representative to PVPC. Mr. Howland said that he was, and said that he feels that the strained relations between the Town and PVPC make it awkward. Mr. Tucker said that the Save Our Stop Committee which was just formed will probably not lessen that strain.

- B. **Community Preservation Act Committee** – No Report.

- C. **Agricultural Commission** – No Report.

IX. REPORT OF THE CHAIR – Mr. Shefftz asked what the Board was doing about elections. Mr. Tucker noted that July 15 is open and they could be held that night.

Mr. Shefftz said that he highly recommends the Scottish Festival at Look Park which was being held on July 18 at Look Park.

Mr. Shefftz asked about the permitting process in Amherst, commenting that a friend had found it very tedious. Mr. Tucker said that it depends on the proposal and that it is a very complex process.

Ms. Brestrup said that measures have been undertaken to help but that process itself has initially slowed things down.

Mr. Shefftz asked who was responsible for paving the bike path with glass. Mr. Tucker said that mixing recycled glass in with the asphalt paving was originally a decision by the Department of Environmental Management, he noted, but its successor agency, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, was planning a major repaving project.

X. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – No Report.

Ms. Barberet said that she had been asked to inquire how many people work in our functional area. Mr. Tucker said 5 in Planning, 4 in Conservation and 4 or 5 in Inspection Services, although he indicated that he wasn't certain about the latter.

Mr. Tucker noted that two positions had just been cut. One planner position will be maintained outside of the tax-supported General Fund by a series of grant funds. An administrative assistant position previously with Inspection Services is the other position cut, and that loss is having a deep impact on the functional area.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howland MOVED: to adjourn this meeting at 6:24 PM. Ms. Barberet seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Sue Krzanowski, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Jonathan Shefftz, Acting Chair

DATE: _____