

Town of Boscawen, NH

Planning Board
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Final
Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM

Planning Board Members Present: Bruce Crawford – Chair, Roberta Witham -Vice-Chair, Bernard Davis, Jr, Douglas Hartford, Matt Lampron, Jeff Reardon, James Scrivens, Rhoda Hardy.

Planning Board Members Absent: Roger Sanborn, ex-officio Alternative Member

Others present: Alan Hardy, Planning and Community Development Director; Kellee Jo Easler, Planning and Community Development Assistant, Katie Phelps, Recording Secretary

Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with a full board.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the June 7, 2016 minutes with two changes made by Bernard Davis, seconded by Douglas Hartford. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- **William Lambert – NH DOT**

William Lambert from the NH DOT came forward to speak with the board. Alan brought up the area of road on Daniel Webster Highway and Goodhue Road for discussion. Bernie states that the speed limit for the area from the Boscawen Church to the old railroad station was going to be changed to 45mph. It was to be a no passing zone all the way. There have been no changes and cars still speed through that area. Mr. Lambert states that from Goodhue Road south should have been a double yellow line. His assumption was that it was completed last year. He has been approached from people north of Goodhue Road expressing concerns for safety due to people passing. NH DOT takes a careful look before allowing passing zones at access points.

Chairman Crawford brought up the “S” curve right before you get to the county jail. He states that the State Troopers are driving on the wrong side of the road at close to 75mph. Mr. Lambert states that State Police Colonel takes safety very seriously and expects the Troopers to lead by example.

The yard sale at 147 King Street was discussed. A Public Hearing is scheduled for July 7, 2016 regarding a Selectmen’s level Yard Sale Ordinance to provide structure. Alan asked if that is

something the Town of Boscawren and NH DOT could work on together to regulate. Mr. Lambert stated that the town has the authority to regulate land use, all the State can regulate is access. From what he has seen it isn't your typical "once a season" yard sale - it's a traffic generator that occurs on a regular basis. The District 5 office would be in charge of regulating that area which is difficult because they don't work the weekends. If made aware, they can contact the property owner and handle the access issues. Issues occurring on the property itself would be the responsibility of the town. Some issues he saw that were concerning are sidewalks being blocked which violates a Federal Law. Mr. Lambert went on to say that he has also seen a piece of plywood put down on the curb to provide a second access point to the property. The ordinance would limit the frequency of yard sales and help to regulate them. Alan asked who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalks. Mr. Lambert states that it is in a state right of way but is owned and maintained by the town. With liability issues NH DOT had to formalize the understanding that the town will be responsible for the sidewalks. Alan states that distraction from the signage and caution tape concerns him and he is worried that a child may run across the road and be injured. There will have to be a blend between regulation and enforcement. Mr. Lambert states that from a DOT standpoint they would rather not have anyone parking on the side of the highway because it interferes with maintenance and creates a safety issue. It's hard to enforce and people park where there is a demand. He wouldn't have an issue putting "No Parking" signs on the length of King Street so long as the board is aware that there will be times where people will park there due to demand.(Ex: Funeral Home parking)

Alan brought up the fact that there was a "No Parking" sign in front of Kapelli's that disappeared. Many tractor trailers park in between the two entrances of the business to walk over to Cumberland Farms. The owner of the restaurant was unsure what happened to them but he had attempted to contact the District 5 office to request that it be replaced. Having a tractor trailer parked there makes it difficult to see if traffic is coming in order to pull out.

Chairman Crawford brought a packet of pictures for the board to review showing areas of damaged roadway in the area of King Street by Kapelli's Restaurant, Black Forest Nursery, 1913 Library and the intersection of Queen Street. He states when someone is turning left and other cars try to go around they hit a large hole. The damaged areas are in the state right-of-way. The road is in need of repair and the District 5 office has been notified numerous times. Mr. Lambert will forward these concerns to Rich at the District 5 office and thinks that Route 3 is scheduled to be re-surfaced this year.

Chairman Crawford asked what the procedure would be in order to put a turn lane in by Queen Street. Mr. Lambert doesn't think the road is wide enough. You would have to extend the bypass shoulder. Another alternative is the State Aid Highway Program or if it qualified based on crashes there is a Highway Safety Improvement Program which has 9 to 10 million dollars available per year. The purpose of the program is to eliminate serious injury or fatalities due to high crash areas.

Chairman Crawford brought up the split between Route 3 and 4 and how there seem to be a lot of accidents at that intersection. Mr. Lambert stated that it was a high priority for Chief Croft because he responded to so many crashes there. Fixing the intersection isn't in the ten year plan. He states that despite the number of crashes there, it hasn't seemed to increase. He doesn't think

it would take much of a geometric change to make it safer. A lower cost alternative might be having either Route 3 “T” into Route 4, or vice versa. Mr. Lambert again suggested looking into the Highway Safety Improvement Program if there have been a lot of crashes. It could potentially help alleviate some of the expense of a project such as this. You could request a “Road Safety Audit” which would include emergency personnel, law enforcement, public works and experts to review the crash history, geometry and traffic operations and come up with some low cost options.

Chairman Crawford addressed the audience for any questions or comments for William Lambert. Roger Sanborn spoke from the audience regarding the Route 3 and 4 intersection. He states there is an accident, not necessarily serious, every 3 weeks. He asked if there was any plan to do changes in terms of the reconstruction of the road. Mr. Lambert stated that the only change he was aware of is the plan to re-surface Route 3. Another member of the audience, Elaine Clow, voiced her concerns over pedestrian safety and sidewalks. She states the crosswalks along the entire stretch of King Street aren’t well marked and that she has counted as many as 32 cars pass before a pedestrian could safely cross. She would like to see that changed. Mr. Lambert says the town maintains the striping of the crosswalks. There are pedestrian actuators available and also flashing lights that cost around \$20,000 a piece – which would be the responsibility of the town.

Bernie Davis asked how the State thinks the roundabout is working out. Mr. Lambert states he thinks it is working out well. Harris Hill backups have gone away. Bernie says that the traffic is backed up to exit 17 and also through Boscawen and he has sat at the traffic lights many times. Mr. Lambert says that would happen with a traffic signal too. He has noticed that the traffic coming from Penacook taking a left turn on Route 4 towards Boscawen is so light that those coming North on Route 4 don’t expect it and are surprised to have to yield to that traffic. Bernie asked about potentially softening the corners so people can get through faster but Mr. Lambert stated that the design slows the traffic which is the intent.

Town Meeting Zoning Ordinance Issues:

- **Accessory Dwelling Units:**

A packet was reviewed about SB 146 – New Rules for Accessory Dwellings. SB 146 was signed by Governor Hassan on March 16, 2016. It is effective June 1, 2017. Municipalities must allow an attached ADU in any single-family zone by right, special exception, or conditional use permit. James Scrivens stated that as an appraiser, an Accessory Dwelling Unit is a subservient unit occupied by a relative at no fee. The lenders will look at ADUs differently. They will want precise definitions to know what they are lending on. The ADU will drive the market value down and the appraisal value and market value will be different. Mr. Scrivens went on to say that lenders aren’t concerned with whether an ADU is attached or detached so long as it is in compliance with current zoning regulations.

- **Definitions:**

Chairman Crawford suggested eliminating the “100 foot reference to wetlands” and replace with 25-50 feet. Alan stated that the wetlands reference is not in the Zoning ordinance – it is currently in Subdivision Regulations. He would like to see it moved from Subdivision Regulations to the Zoning Ordinance.

Master Plan Review 2002:

- **Update and Revise Sections:**

Alan suggested updating the housing aspect because of impending changes. Alan and Chairman Crawford suggested eliminating areas of the Master Plan that have been completed.

- **Housing and Economic Development:**

The Master Plan needs to support the direction that the Board is going.

Old Business:

- **Rehearing Withdrawn for July 7, 2016**

A settlement has been reached by Horizon Holdings, LLC and Cold Brook Gravel, Inc. and the hearing for July 7, 2016 has been withdrawn.

- **Matthew and Kara Adams – 83/68/1:**

Alan Hardy drafted and sent a letter to Mr. Daniel Geiger, Wetlands Scientist, of Oak Hill Environmental Services seeking feedback on the wetlands delineation he did for the final subdivision approval. According to Deborah Hinds, a NH Certified Wetland Scientist, the lot does not meet the 20,000 square feet of contiguous buildable upland per regulations.

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Douglas Hartford, seconded by Bernard Davis. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katie Phelps