

NEWINGTON PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Minutes – Revision #1
Monday, March 27, 2006

Call to Order: Acting Vice Chairman, Denis Hebert called to order the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

Present: Denis Hebert, Jack Pare, Vincent Frank, Chris Cross, John Frink, Cosmos Iocovozzi, and Tom Morgan, Town Planner. Also present: Cheryl Phoenix of Seacoast Commuter Options and Cindy Frené, of TransAction Associates

Not Present: Sandy Hislop, Chairman, Peggy Lamson, and Gail Klanchesser

Minutes: Moved to accept minutes of the meeting on March 13th. Withdrew Motion. Postponed to April 10, 2006. Don't have a Quorum.

Denis: Revised Agenda.

New Correspondence: Tom: Passed out Packet to Board. Other items in packet relating to letter from UNO regarding Driveway, minutes of January 9th discussed TMA and in minutes you invited Cheryl and Cindy, to come back. In the interim they provided us with examples, 2 Planning Boards in Massachusetts, letter of decision of the Andover PB to get with the TMA with condition of approval to compare with the Town of Woburn, they adopted an ordinance. Very last page, Tom's effort to get you to adopt a similar ordinance back in August 2005 and was tabled. Placed in packet to compare between the two PB's.

Copy of letter from the CC regarding the meeting with DOT. It's March 28th @ 9AM. Public Meeting all invited to attend.

Denis suggested posting Agenda on the Website. Tom will take care of that.

Denis is concerned on the tone of the letter from UNO and disagrees with what they are saying. Discussion ensued, not on agenda and one of the owners, Ken Inseman, in attendance to make sure everything was going along and there were no problems. Any comments to letter, none at this time.

Old Business: Transportation Management Association

Cheryl Phoenix, of Seacoast Commuter Options and Cindy Frené of TransAction Associates introduced by Denis.

A packet of information was presented to each member of the Planning Board on January 9th, 2006 Cheryl gave background on the Seacoast Commuter Options and the roll it plays in the Community. She is hoping to encourage the town and many towns across the country to join the TMA. Right now they have about 12 companies today and one is the Portsmouth Regional Hospital has become a member as well as other Portsmouth and PDA employers, and is hoping to get many of the companies that are on the Spaulding Turnpike area, to become members of the management group because of the upcoming bridge construction, which is just a few years away. If we don't start working on it now, when the time comes we will have huge traffic problems when construction starts. We have a huge interest on the seacoast to become members.

Denis asked for a brief overview again. TMA: the program consists of member (employers) of the TMA. The membership is matched via grants to fund the program. It would reduce the number of vehicles on the road. Employers are encouraged to join the program as an added benefit to employees. A pre-tax credit is available for employers and employees who take part in this program. It encourages individuals and co-workers to ride share and van share. It offers a Guaranteed Ride

Home Program for individuals that participate in the program and need to leave work due to an emergency or illness. Organize vanpools within companies, can go into website which is very interactive and confidential for the user. Commuters can access and find a match. There are many options. The TMA needs one anchor town to do it and would like it to be Newington. Once a Town does it others will follow.

Denis: One of the questions was; could the Town have an umbrella membership? Is it doable? It's a great idea and need to know how many businesses in community, how many employees. Discussed about doing a Mall business and get it all under one umbrella. Denis, it's not the traffic coming to town, but the traffic passing through town to malls. How can it work for shoppers and include some hotels? It's just an idea. Cheryl: the Mall for instance, Framingham (Jordan's Furniture and Tweeters) it works because they have many part-time employees. We have a lot of creative ideas. John: City of Portsmouth giving you a Grant? Cheryl: Just recently received a Grant for marketing from DOT and Portsmouth had to sign on and agree to it and the PDA provided the match and Portsmouth is putting in a portion. It takes years, education and making alternatives available. Have to be a member. Not expensive to join. It will help reduce congestion due to construction and reduce amount of vehicles on road.

Denis: Fuel will be going up drastically and we need to find alternatives. Cheryl would like to address a couple of things to John: July of this past year, the NH Business and Industry had a roundtable all over state and in several different communities and about 35-50 businesses that were represented there. Discussed what issues facing businesses today on the seacoast in particular. They tracked down about 10 different issues. The first two issues were affordable housing and transportation. About 160,000 people hitting the website a month. It shows peoples interest. It's not a negative thing, it's positive and companies are asking them to come and present and be part of their benefits package. If they can't find a partner right away, the website will eventually find a partner for them. We are very pro-active. The key is getting on the website, sign up and find a partner. Discussion continued and general questions and answers followed.

Denis: We need to adopt something, take the lead and support this and use it to introduce this to the community. Tom: Do we have legal authority? Chris: Provide incentive. Possibly Federal tax exemptions. Cheryl: all we are requiring companies is to become members. Employees join at Towns expense. Denis: good program and make it work, educate the people it's a real plus thing. Cheryl to work with Tom on this program and to get more information. They will come back to make another presentation and meet within 30-60 days. Cheryl appreciated time given them and will get back to the Board and what it entails.

Master Plan: Town Services & Facilities

Fourth Draft for discussion. Denis concerns: Doesn't necessarily agree with wording. Tom: seek some input and would like to schedule some meeting starting with the easy one.

Meet with Police and Fire first regarding facilities: April 24th

School and HDC: fourth Monday in May

Recreation: 4th Monday in June

Selectmen: Be invited to all meeting.

Chris: Wanted to review Page 15: First line in first paragraph, right after 1921. A second sentence should read: "The Air Force took control in 1960 after building the Newington Elementary School and retained control until 1998." Second Paragraph, take out first clause "Due to lack of maintenance and neglect" and it should read: "Due to inability to do maintenance while the Government controlled the building, substantial improvements need to be made."

Vincent: We should have just a work session for the Master Plan. Denis: Feels the plan should be whittled down. Tom: PB should be assertive. Denis: This should be a vision of where we are going.

Tom: Lets start with Police and Fire and work from there. Denis: Is everyone okay with that.

All: Yes.

Before proceeding (not on agenda) **Jack** wants to discuss progress on Aerial Photography and where things are with the big pipe dream, which, they had a big meeting last weekend. Either Wednesday or Thursday morning, to be decided, we will be meeting with the Project Engineer from Bradstreet Consultants, they are the ones who won the Aerial Photography bid. Boundaries need to be looked at between Newington and Greenland. The Town boundary, based on the USGS topo maps put out by the State is wrong (300 feet off). Jack has agreed the survey needs to be discussed when meeting with the photographer. Previously, it was the boundary that was reviewed by both towns in 1974 and everyone agreed it was right. Jack has lots more information and only brought the most urgent to the meeting. Denis: Thanks for the update, really important. A reminder: Normally we do elections for the PB and will do it next month or next meeting. Tom: It's done in April.

Pending Business/Hotel:

Denis will be meeting with Matt Upton, Lawyer on hotel development issues on March 28th and April 6th -meeting with the PB at 6PM and the CC immediately after. The applicant will be made aware that it will be a public meeting. Denis: Would like to readdress open versus closed meeting and talk to Matt whether it's a wise idea. We could have a sub-committee: Coz: An informational meeting? Discussion ensued. Move on and spend 10 minutes on the first two, A & B.

Bed and Breakfast Inns: Denis: Wanted to discuss and get a feel about Bed and Breakfast Inns in this town. Vincent: Doesn't have an issue. John: Doesn't think there's a call for it and not to encourage it. Needs to be addressed-should be limited rooms, with all off street parking. Discussion followed. Tom: To call Portsmouth and Exeter regarding ordinances. Denis: Revisit this when Tom comes back with more information.

Driveways:

Jack: Observation on re-curb cuts. Most of the permitted curb-cuts (circular driveways) are on streets that have not outlets or are outright Dead End. Jack: Not pursued right now. Denis: See negative-location and additional costs to town. Keep that in mind.

Vincent: Restriction-allowed only 1 curb cut. Determine: Do you go to 2 curb cuts? Safety factor involved – just put in ordinance that one has to be in and one has to be out, i.e. circular driveway.

Chris: Needs to be safe from a traffic standpoint. Vincent doesn't see a problem. Denis: Consensus by all. Change line #3 in ordinance: Delete it. Take an action on it and vote on it in September. Will need a Public Hearing to make it official.

Denis: made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Cos seconded it. Denis: All in Favor, Aye.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pearl Travis-Sirois, Recorder/Transcriber

File: NPB Minutes: 3-27-06