

Newington Planning Board

Minutes - April 23, 2007

Planning Board Members Present: Jack Pare, Cliff Abbott, Peggy Lamson, Mike Macroni, Vincent Frank, Tom Bobotas, Denis Hebert (Chairman)

Also Present: Town Planner Tom Morgan, Jeff Brissette, Scott Bogle, Ryan Austin-Pease

Commencement: Chairman Hebert opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

SUR Construction: Jeff Brissette, a contractor from SUR Construction spoke before the board, explaining plans to carry excavated soil from a site at Pease to land owned by Granite State Minerals on Gosling Road. Peggy Lamson refused to sit.

Denis Hebert asked Brissette to provide estimates for the amount of fill to be moved, the length of the project, the traffic route the fill will be transported along, and the noise output of the project. Hebert also pointed out that much of the project will actually be occurring in / affecting Portsmouth also, and suggested that SUR approach the Portsmouth board as well.

Tom Morgan, Denis Hebert, and Jack Pare all voiced concerns about the project's proximity to the river, and Hebert suggested that SUR loam and seed the soil, as well as other measures to ensure that there will be no problems occurring from erosion. There was some discussion of various erosion control methods among the board.

The board left satisfied with Brissette's plans, though he was urged to keep in touch as the plans were executed.

Metropolitan Planning Organization: Scott Bogle, a transportation planner with the Rockingham Planning Commission spoke before the board about a proposal to realign the boundaries of the Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organization to correspond to the boundaries of the Rockingham Planning Commission and the Strafford Regional Planning Commission.

Bogle gave a short presentation detailing the roles of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Planning Commissions for the board, and also detailing the particulars of the proposal.

Jack Pare expressed concerns that the new divisions created by the realignment could complicate the relationships between organizations that frequently hold joint meetings

and work fluidly together.

Tom Bobotas asked Bogle to detail the effects of the realignment on non-profits.

Denis Hebert requested that Bogle describe the financial implications of the realignment.

Jack Pare and Peggy Lamson both expressed concern that the new alignment would cause Nashua to become “the big fish in the pond”; Bogle attempted to reassure them that that would not be the case.

It was determined that Jack Pare and Mike Macroni would formulate a letter to the selectmen expressing the board’s concerns.

Bogle then, at Hebert’s suggestion, explained how a financial decision moves through the MPOs and RPCs, and how New Hampshire’s system differs from that of most states’.

After further explanations of the proposal from Scott Bogle, Jack Pare motioned: “It is for discussion purposes that I move that we endorse the realignment and redesignation of the existing MPOs as presented by the representative of the Rockingham Planning Commission.” Peggy Lamson seconded.

After some discussion, the motion was put to a vote: the outcome was 4 in favor, 2 opposed.

Walmart - Outdoor Sales: Walmart store manager Ryan Austin-Pease approached the board with a proposal to set up outdoor displays in front of the store during the summer and early fall. She reported to the board that the displays had been approved by the fire chief (Austin-Pease had on April 9th been asked by the board to meet with the fire chief for his approval regarding the outdoor sale displays). She then presented the board with a detailed description of the displays: What items the displays would include, the size of the displays, the position of the displays in relation to the store itself, and the position of the displays in relation to the road.

Denis Hebert suggested that the displays be allowed on a trial basis; there was then discussion over what appropriate time-frames for the displays would be. It was determined that the summer display would run 5/1/07 - 7/10/07 and the fall display would run 8/30/07 - 10/30/07.

Jack Pare motioned that Walmart’s proposal be accepted on a temporary and conditional trial basis. Peggy Lamson seconded. All in favor.

Waterfront Zoning: Denis Hebert opened for discussion the rethinking of waterfront property, and how that rethinking relates to the Master Plan.

Hebert suggested that the board begin thinking about alternative energy, “green” energy, and nuclear energy, and how it can better the community. The group discussed this.

Wetlands Ordinance: Tom Morgan suggested that clarification is needed in regards to the definition of “surface water”. Jack Pare defined surface water for the board as “recognizable permanent bodies of water contiguous with larger bodies of water.” After much discussion, the issue was postponed to a later meeting.

Pedestrian Walkway between HRE and the Fox Run Mall: Tom Morgan brought to the board’s attention that a required walkway between HRE and the Fox Run Mall has yet to be built. Both companies are responsible for their half of the walkway, and neither has started the project. It was determined through discussion that both companies will be instructed to build their half of the walkway whether or not they do it at the same time.

Las Vegas Cinemas: The members of the board received invitations to the grand opening of the Las Vegas Cinemas.

Application Procedures: Dennis Hebert voiced his frustration with the lack of standardization in the application process. Tom Morgan reviewed the specific phases of the process. The board discussed means of standardizing the procedures. Jack Pare suggested a checklist. Denis Hebert suggested a punch-clock.

Minutes of April 9th: There was general discussion about various minor typographical and grammatical errors in the minutes for 4/9. Vincent Frank moved that the minutes be adopted with the errors corrected. Tom Bobotas seconded. All approved.

Adjournment: Cliff Abbott moved to adjourn. Peggy Lamson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM. Everyone took a cupcake.

