

**Newington Planning Board  
Master Plan Work Session  
May 15, 2006**

**Present:** Chair Sandy Hislop, Vincent Frank, Jack Pare, Gail Klanchesser, Peggy Lamson, Town Planner Tom Morgan, Police Chief John Tretter, School Board Chairperson Helen Maldini

**Meeting called to order at 6:42 pm**

**Master Plan update**

Police Chief Tretter provided handouts detailing changes to the Police Department section of the Town Services and Facilities chapter of the Master Plan. The first page of his handout covered two recommendations made by the Planning Board for a police sub-station at the mall and acquisition of low-emission vehicles. Chief Tretter felt there really was no need for a police substation at the mall as the officers can use the mall security office. Both he and the Police Commission are in favor of low-emission vehicles, however there currently are no models that would fit the needs of the Police Department. He advised that if such vehicles are available in the future they would be considered.

The second page of the handout contained recommendations. The first was the addition of a compound or enclosure for impounded vehicles and property. In the past they have used the Carriage Shed, but a building closer to the Police Station would be preferable and would have better security. Further discussion suggested a concrete slab with a metal building would meet the department's needs. The Chief also would like to recommend additional radio equipment to allow better communication between departments outside of Newington. The purchase of additional portable radios that could be issued during major events to issue to officers from outside departments so that all officers on a single scene would be operating on the same radio frequencies. Lastly the landscaping and physical police building were discussed. There is no drain in the sallyport and the floor is sloped such that water pools inside. Melting snow & slush as well as normal rainfall can flood part of the sallyport. A redesign of the sallyport floor and drainage plan is needed. Gail asked if the Chief could provide information on Newington's participation in the Car 54 program, the Chief advised there was some good information in the town report that could be used.

Next Helen Maldini, Chairperson of the Newington School Board, handed out an updated version of the school portion of the Town Services & Facilities Chapter. A handout prepared by town resident Mike Mazeau about school expenses, enrollment, economics, and demographics was also handed out. Helen had not seen the handout prior to the meeting, but advised that this is an issue that has come before the school board and they will be scheduling a work session to specifically deal the concerns in Mazeau's handout. She asked that the Planning Board not use this handout for this section of the master plan. The board briefly discussed the handout and decided to work on the immediate information from the school and draft #7 for this work session this evening and will review the additional handout from Mazeau before the completion of the chapter.

The new version from the school contained most of the same information in the Master Plan draft #7, but also included additional information on curriculum, the school board and the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) accreditation. The board went through the new copy from the school and draft copy together to discuss changes. Discussion ensued around the transition to Portsmouth Middle School and possibly recommending sending our 6<sup>th</sup> graders to PMS, rather than wait until 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Helen explained the curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the preparation for their transition to PMS and stated that the students would fare better remaining in Newington for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Jack asked about tuitioning in students to bring in income to the school and that is something that could be recommended. Discussion turned to the demographics and the differences between the two copies. Jim Katkin, the business manager at the SAU 50 office uses weighted averages, our draft uses census data and the two do not seem to match. Helen will have Jim contact Tom to discuss the demographics data. Discussion over the prior suggestion of closing the school if enrollment declined below 50 students. Enrollment is currently at 49 students. If Newington tuitions students out of town the residents will have no ability to comment or have any control over issues

that impact elementary education as we would not be residents of the town that is educating our children. Newington also does not have a good track record of building maintenance for buildings not in current use. If enrollment eventually increased re-opening a closed school would be difficult as the physical building would need to be brought up to the new standards of that time, which may be very different from educational facility standards of today. Final discussion centered around the economic considerations and the costs of education.

### **Correspondence**

- Draft letter to Tyco. Looks good except reword last paragraph to *Without an updated plan this proposed 2-lot subdivision causes us great concern. We urge you to have a professional review of your development plan for this property.*
- Letter from Upton re: Wingate Hotel proposal. We need a traffic study on the location of the driveway to this property.
- Letter from Upton re: Pease site plan review by the Newington Fire Department. Discussion of possible code and local requirements between the Portsmouth and Newington Fire Departments. NFD is not seeing the future without the PDA, but the feeling of the Planning Board is that the PDA will not be here forever. We need more communication and feedback with the Portsmouth Fire Dept in regards to Pease site review, but we can't go through multiple hoops to get it.
- Letter from Peter Loughlin re: Bay Auto Dealership plates request. This is an FYI, it is a Selectmen's issue. Atty Loughlin's letter clearly shows that they are not eligible for state dealer plates and should continue to use their repair plate status.
- Portsmouth Herald article on Prime Wetlands at Pease. In the article Pease Atty Lynn Hincee stated she was at a prime wetlands hearing in Newington however no one present could remember her attendance other than at a meeting for a different land use matter in Newington.

**Meeting concluded 8:35pm**