

## GROTON PLANNING BOARD

May 25, 2011

Present: Deb Johnson (Acting Chair), Celine Richer, Russ Carruth, Jenny Burnett, Miles Sinclair (Select Board Liaison)

Minutes of April 27<sup>th</sup> read and approved as read.

Celine attended an NLRA work session on steep slope regulations- she noted that the focus was on Groton as our town contains the greatest share (40%) of the watershed. Information gleaned from the session includes:

- We have the only hydrologist-performed study for floodplains;
- Hebron and Alexandria have adopted the Watershed Plan;
- A study of culverts produced a map detailing recommended actions for Groton- road agent has received a letter detailing their findings;
- Steve Whitman will send us a letter about riparian buffers; and
- Time is running out for us to avail ourselves of their services.

A discussion ensued regarding what other items we might want to utilize Steve Whitman for while his services are available. Possible implementation actions related to the Master Plan include revised land use ordinances, fostering open space, ensuring densities of development are identified, riparian buffers, sedimentation/erosion control regulations, and targeting specific areas for protection (fragile soils, steep slopes, ridgelines etc.). Deb noted that relevant key actions could include requiring larger minimum lot sizes in forestry areas, and protecting residents with buffers from adjacent logging. Possible Select Board actions include Board septic inspections, monitoring of forestry and fertilization, and development of plans to reduce storm water issues. We agree to schedule a visit from NLRA as soon as possible to discuss options in more detail.

We next reviewed the Minimum Requirements for Proposed Subdivisions pertaining to steep slopes but decided to work on it more for the next meeting. Other homework includes reviewing the site plan regulations to see where to insert steep slopes information in that document.

Next Russ reported back on his calls to citizens receiving at least one write-in vote for the empty Planning Board seat. Dave Labar is the only interested party and Russ will pursue his attendance of the next meeting.

Road percentages are tabled as Steve Whitman did not respond on that topic.

A letter to the Board from the North Country Council described their goal to help small rural towns develop their community planning and governance capabilities under the current RCDI grant program. This is a free service and we agree to sign NCC up to visit and present to us.

The NH Land Surveyor's Association alerted us that towns will soon receive information detailing the different situations requiring a surveyor versus an engineer- we will check into this more.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm. Jenny Burnett, Acting Clerk