

GROTON PLANNING BOARD

April 26, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Present: Chair Deborah Johnson, Ray Blake, Dave LaBar, Russ Carruth, Kyle Andrews (Select Board Liaison)

Absent: Elizabeth Jespersen, Glen Hansen

The Committee waived reading of the March Minutes, and the Members agreed to delay approval in order to open the Master Plan Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Opened at 7:05 PM.

There were several members of the public present: Pam Hamel, Bill Jolly, Chuck Stata, Slim Spafford and Ruth Millett.

The question was asked, why revise the Master Plan. Deb explained it is recommended by NH RSA 674:3 to update/revise the Town's Plan every 5 to 10 years or as soon as planning changes may be prudent to maintain the vision of the community. She further explained that a master plan is a planning document that guides the overall character, growth and development of a community

While the master plan is not a legal document, it does provide the legal basis for zoning and other land use regulations. It is the legal prerequisite for the following:

- Adoption of a zoning ordinance (RSA 674:18);
- Adoption of a historic district (RSA 674:46-a IV);
- Establishment of a capital improvement program (RSA 674:6);
- Adoption of a growth management ordinance (RSA 674:22).

Deb also addressed the question, who will decide what, if any, zoning will be needed? She explained that the PB wants the community to decide and that the Board has formed a citizen committee as reference in the Board's 2016 Annual Town Report provided at 2017 Town meeting.

Specifics relating to content was discussed and all recommendations were approved for insertion in the Master Plan, including the following:

- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), Transportation for seniors and the disabled, hiring an enforcement officer for land use boards and the selectman use, consideration of certain planning techniques, i.e., innovative regulations allowed by NH RSA.

The Public Hearing was closed by motion and PB vote at 8:45 PM, followed by adjournment of the Meeting at 8:50 PM.

Submitted by

Deborah Johnson