

Town of Farmington
Planning Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Board Members Present:

David Kestner, Chairman
Stephen Henry
TJ Place, Selectmen's Rep.
Charlie King
Bill Fisher, Secretary
Rick Pelkey

Board Members Absent:

Bruce Bridges

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Kestner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Review of Meeting Minutes:

February 19, 2019 – Page 2, 4th line from the top - add "at" after "arrived";

Page 3, 4th line from the top – add "the" before "next"; 10th line from the top- add "asked" after "Henry"

Page 4, 6th line up from the bottom- add "the" before "owner";

Page 5, 13th line from the bottom- add "said" after "Tetreault"; 12th line from the bottom- add "is" before "not"

Motion: (Fisher, second King) to accept the minutes amended passed 6-0.

4). Correspondence: None

5). Any Other Business before the Board:

Town Elections/Town Meeting- Chairman Kestner reminded the viewers that the Town Election is on Tues. March 12 and the Town Meeting will take place on Wed. March 13 and encouraged everyone to vote and attend the Town Meeting if they are capable of doing so.

Steering Committee – Mr. Fisher said he attended the last Steering Committee meeting and they are working on what should be done with the old Fire Station property and how to revive and update the area. He said there was a lot of discussion about the appearance of the downtown and what improvements are needed there.

He said the committee is still working with the UNH Cooperative Extension who has brought on board 8-10 seniors that are working on a project to analyze the data collected so far by the committee. They also interviewed the committee members for their thoughts about the same questions used during the Key Informant interviews conducted by the committee to find out

what residents would like to see downtown. This work is on-going he said.

Mr. Fisher said he also attended the last Strafford Regional Planning Commission meeting 2 weeks prior and viewed the presentations put on by the various committees that make up the organization and their roles in helping the member towns. He said this information is included in the 2018 Annual Town Report.

Mr. Fisher said the Dover commission representative told the commission that the city is looking at changing the zoning laws there to require new construction to include solar power in their plans. He said the museum located at the Henry Law Park in Dover has a new solar system on its roof and a dedication ceremony is coming up soon.

Mr. King asked if there were any plans to provide financial support for this new mandate.

Mr. Fisher said he did not know and that all of the variables are still under discussion.

He said Dover is also looking at allowing a tax break for solar power systems similar to warrant article on the Town Warrant this year.

Mr. King said Farmington already has a tax break for solar systems but it is not to the extent requested in the petitioned article.

Chairman Kestner asked when they plan to address wind turbines and when they would be installing them on the steeples in Dover.

Mr. Fisher said that was not brought up at the meeting. He said the Dover rep also mentioned that a committee was formed in Dover charged with making Dover green which would include more recycling, more solar power, the effects of climate change and energy efficiency.

Mr. King said this may spur developers to look at bringing their new construction to other towns if they don't see a benefit from Dover's increased regulatory requirements without any funding. When they want to rush the natural progression of energy efficiency but they don't want to fund it and have the residents and businesses foot the bill I don't think it's going to go over very well he said.

Chairman Kestner said the legislature is working on another plan that could result in a carbon tax because they need more money to fund bridge and highway repairs.

Mr. King suggested that they should spend less money instead.

EDC Rep. – Mr. Henry said that Economic Development Committee Chairman Angela Hardin contacted him and Mr. Fisher to find a representative from the Planning Board to the EDC. He said the committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and that he is willing to become the rep of the board would like him to do so.

Motion: (King, second Fisher) to nominate Stephen Henry as the Planning Board representative to the Economic Development Committee;

Discussion: Mr. Henry said he did not think it would be a conflict to be member of the EDC while being a business owner in town.

Mr. Fisher said the committee has been looking for business owners to become members.

Mr. King said he thought it would be a benefit to the committee as Mr. Henry has vested

interest with the success of the downtown area and would want to see improvements there. Mr. Fisher said that Chad York, owner of the Blue Collar Barbershop downtown is a member of the EDC.

Vote: The motion passed 5-0-1 (Henry abstained).

Next Meeting – Mr. Fisher asked if the board still planned to review the draft of the revised Master Plan at their next meeting on Tues. March 19.

Chairman Kestner said that is what is scheduled and reminded the members to bring their paperwork for the third draft to the meeting.

Mr. Pelkey said if there is a new draft of the plan he hoped the board would receive it before the day of the meeting as happened last time.

Chairman Kestner asked the board to review the Master Plan information, make any necessary notations and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting in 2 weeks.

6). Adjournment:

Motion: (Fisher, second Henry) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 6:22 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

David Kestner, Chairman