

HOPKINTON PLANNING BOARD

Monday, March 10, 2003 7:30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: John H. Coolidge, Chairman, Sandy K. Altamura, Vice Chairman, Mark Abate, Scott Aghababian, Pamela Duffy, Jaime Goncalves, Tina Rose, Claire Wright
.....Elaine C. Lazarus, Town Planner

1. Administrative Business

The Board voted unanimously to pay outstanding bills. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of Jan. 6, 2003. The Board voted 5 in favor with two opposed (Goncalves, Duffy) to approve the Minutes of Jan. 27, 2003.

2. 81-P Plan – Glen Rd. – Lumber St. Resolution Realty Trust

A representative of the applicant appeared before the Board. However, since the mylar original of the plan and filing fee had not been delivered, the matter was postponed to the next meeting.

3. Civic Engagement

Ms. Altamura updated the Board about the Civic Engagement forum held the previous weekend, noting that professional facilitators ran the meeting which focused on the priorities and vision of the Town. She stated she didn't think it focused on the right issues all the time because it was more about a vision for the future and not about current financial problems.

Ms. Wright arrived at this time.

The Board discussed the forum, noting that some of the statistics presented from the 2000 census were surprising, such as the income levels of residents. Those who attended stated that the priorities of the Town seemed to be open space, education, and a revitalized downtown. It was noted that no real solutions to the Town's problems were discussed at the forum.

4. Town Meeting Articles

Ms. Lazarus stated that a petition to accept Montana Rd. as a public way was submitted, as was a petition to designate West Main St. from Downey St. to the Upton line as a scenic road. She noted that the Board would hold a public hearing on the West Main St. designation on March 24, and that the Board would be required to make a recommendation to town meeting.

The Board reviewed the recommended modifications to its proposed zoning bylaw amendments from Town Counsel. The Board decided to make the recommended changes to all of the articles.

The Board discussed the proposed changes to the Site Plan Review bylaw. Ms. Duffy stated she thought that the new language proposed relating to uses exempt from zoning in c. 40A sec. 3 should be moved to the Purpose section from the Definitions section, since all of the items in the

Definitions section are physical thresholds that aren't related to use. The Board agreed, and asked Ms. Lazarus to discuss this with Town Counsel to make sure it would work there. Ms. Duffy recommended that the Board change the proposed time limit for the Board to act on a major project, as it might not give the Board enough time when there is a complex project. It was noted that the time limits for minor projects were lengthened, and that didn't seem to be necessary. It was noted that there did not seem to be any problem with the current time limits. Ms. Wright stated she thinks the purpose of the process is to serve the townspeople and not developers, and she wants to make sure there is sufficient time for that. The Board decided to leave the time limits in the current bylaw unchanged.

5. Housing Partnership Committee

Ms. Lazarus noted there is a vacancy on the Housing Partnership Committee due to the resignation of Planning Board member Jack Lucas. She briefly outlined the purpose of the Committee. After discussion, Mark Abate volunteered to serve on the Committee.

6. Other Business

The Board set the following meeting dates in 2003: May 12, June 2, June 16, July 14, July 28, Aug. 11, Aug. 25.

Ms. Lazarus stated that given the advice of the Appropriations Committee, the Board should submit an article into the Special Town Meeting warrant to pay the outstanding costs incurred in the Hearthstone subdivision, in the amount of \$1,545.92. It was noted that the additional costs were due to items discovered during the project, including broken and clogged drainage pipes. Ms. Lazarus stated that the article would request transfer of the funds from the Board's Salaries line item for this purpose, and there were surplus funds there because the Secretary position was vacant for a few months. The Board voted unanimously to submit the article.

Adjourned: 8:45 PM

Elaine C. Lazarus, Town Planner

Approved: March 24, 2003