

Approved

SANBORNTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND PLANNING BOARD JOINT MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2016

Town Offices

The Board of Selectmen convened a joint meeting with the Planning Board **Monday, September 26, 2016** at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Offices. In attendance were Selectman Jon Olmstead, Selectman Karen Ober, Planner Ward, Evelyn Auger, Don Bormes, Dick Gardner and Will Ellis. Justin Barriault and Jody Slack were absent. Town Administrator, Katie Ambrose was also present.

Copies of the proposed Economic Development Chapter were provided to those in attendance. Evelyn Auger stated the Economic Development Committee was a wonderful group the Town got together and the interest is there, without a budget for the position which is an “add on” to the Planner’s position in most Towns. Evelyn Auger asked what the expectations are of the Selectmen and the Planning Board? How do we make this work? Evelyn Auger noted the Town Planner has some people that can be brought in to get this thing off the ground but it needs a small budget.

Planner Ward stated Sanbornton is in need of community development, he was sent to the Economic Development Academy at UNH and completed that school then the Selectmen authorized the creation of a committee who drafted a chapter for the Master Plan, which is different than most because it is action oriented with results and implementation. The Selectmen and Planning Board (PB) reviewed page #15. Planner Ward explained the Economic Development Officer is new from the original draft because the Planning Board decided it would be more effective to have an officer. Selectman Ober has suggested there may be a need for both a committee and an officer. Planner Ward stated one of the action items is the creation of a web page but we need the Selectmen’s authorization first. Planner Ward noted he has spoken with Robb Jutton, who has indicated server space is not a problem.

Planner Ward explained the Planning Board feels there needs to be a “go to” person in the office with regular hours to facilitate a response, the officer would be additional to the Planner’s position or an entirely new position. There are also grants that could be pursued with the Selectmen’s permission, at 100% match or with a match of “in-kind” services. Planner Ward noted the PB has a draft economic development (2018) budget ready for the Selectmen. Planner Ward stated economic development needs the support of the Selectmen because if there is none, then there will be no financial support or interest for a viable program. Planner Ward noted the Budget Committee is in favor of level funding budgets but the Town Meeting vote increased the PB’s budget, which is an indication that the taxpayers know there is a problem and they want to make a difference.

Selectman Ober stated she feels we are putting the cart before the horse and the actual chapter needs to be approved before we move forward with the plans. Selectman Ober asked if the extra

six hours, that was granted by Town Meeting, is being used towards economic development or other board/committee tasks? Selectman Ober stated the chapter looks different than what the committee proposed and feels the committee would still be beneficial moving forward, so direction can be given to the officer by residents.

Don Bormes stated we need to establish who will take charge of this and creating a separate position just won't happen but feels it can be part of the Town Planner's responsibilities, which will need a new job description and once his time is estimated then a budget figure can be determined.

Selectman Ober stated a Public Hearing to approve the Economic Development Chapter needs to be held first before any of this is done because if it is not approved, we will not need a committee or officer.

Selectman Olmstead stated it sounds like we need an approved chapter by the people first and he is all for economic development but the word "officer" is used in this chapter a lot, so will he be able to do all of this without taking time away from other boards/committees.

Dick Gardner stated he doesn't think anyone is "anti" economic development, unless a Wal-mart goes up at exit #22 and feels the Town Planner can start this process with the resources available, which is a zero cost kind of thing right now. Dick Gardner suggested starting with a press release. Dick Gardner stated he feels when this chapter went to the PB, we designated the officer in places where the committee was, which is more money & hours when we already had volunteers.

Selectman Olmstead stated if the chapter gets approved before Town Meeting then a Warrant Article can be proposed and suggested a new job description be drafted in the interim but the work be conducted within the Planner's existing hours/budget. Selectman Olmstead noted they want the Town Planner to move forward with economic development but if hours are needed then a request needs to be made to the Selectmen.

Planner Ward recognized two things; 1) The 2013 Town Meeting allowed the 10% impervious coverage requirement to be increased to 60% impervious coverage in the Aquifer Overlay Zone with an approved storm water management plan; and 2) The wholesale commercial expansion quadrupled in size, both received political support plus an increase in the budget. TA Ambrose suggested the Selectmen make comments regarding the economic development chapter before the Public Hearing and they agreed. Selectman Ober noted she would like the committee versus officer issue revisited. The Public Hearing will be scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2016 @ 7 p.m.

Dick Gardner made a motion to add the "Sanbornton Economic Development Advisory Committee" under the task of maintain Sanbornton businesses along with the officer, on page #15 of the chapter. Don Bormes seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Rollins, Administrative Specialist