

Westmoreland Planning Board
April 18th 2016
Meeting minutes

A. Call to Order, Seating Members

Present: Lauren Bressett, Steve Houle, Dawn Lincoln, Jim Starkey, Bruce Smith, Clay Stalker, Tim Thompson

Absent: Mark Hayward

Lauren Bressett called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm Tim Thompson seated for Mark Hayward.

Review of Minutes 2/15/2016

Dawn Lincoln made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Clay Stalker second. Board members approved the minutes.

B. Application/Hearing

6:33 pm Proposed Master Plan Public Hearing

Lauren Bressett opened the public hearing at 6:33 PM and invited anyone to comment.

Marshall Patmos chair of the Conservation Commission asked to have added "the conservation plan is also available online on the town's website." He also suggested having the current town population stated on page 27 Section 10, suggesting something like "the 2013 census showed Westmoreland's population was 1963." In the appendices he also asked to have four maps included, either individually or combined into one map: Important Land with conservation values, Water resources, Steep slopes, Open fields and farm land.

Patricia Rodrigues stated she felt the planning board should not be able to change the master plan since it is noted that the process is laid out by RSA with no planning board members on the Master plan update committee. She stated she felt the Master Plan should include the Conservation plan. She also stated that on the Recreation section on page 24, that the Cheshire Rail Trail should be mentioned and that it connects with Keene. She also wanted to point out in reference to the Historical Resources page 28, the Cheshire Rail Trail was not mentioned in that either and feels it should be. She also feels the colored maps of the conservation plan should be included.

At 6:47 Lauren Bressett closed the public hearing; she noted that she would reopen the hearing one more time in case there were other comments the public wished to share. She clarified that Patricia Rodriguez was not correct in reference to RSA 674 which just lays out the duty of the planning board to "prepare and amend from time to time a master plan to guide the development of the municipality."

Board members began discussing the concerns raised by the public during the hearing. In reference to including the 4 maps, Jim Starkey felt that informing the public the conservation plan is available at the town office and online is sufficient enough, and there is no need to duplicate it within the master plan. After considering adding a consolidated map of the suggested items, the Board felt it would not be very clear and some of the maps after reviewing seemed to be contradictory.

Some discussion ensued in reference to the rail trail, it was decided Lauren Bressett will research the name of the abandoned rail system in town. If the name is legally Cheshire Rail Trail the board will change, if not will leave as presently written.

In considering adding the abandoned railway to the historical resources section, the Board members decided it was not appropriate as this section does not specifically mention any other individual historical properties in town.

Lauren Bressett reopened the public hearing at 7:16 pm to see if anyone had any other comments.

John Lukin asked the Board to consider adding back in the original suggested 3 steps of implementations on Pg 25.

Marshal Patmos asked the Board the reconsider adding the forested hillside map.

Patricia Rodriguez reiterated that she felt too much information was removed from Pg 25, the natural resource section.

Lauren Bressett reclosed the public hearing at 7:21 pm

Board members discussed items mentioned; they did not feel the need to add back into Pg25 the 3 steps to implementation as no other section repeated objectives. The board verified their decision to not add maps including the forested hillside map; Jim Starkey reiterated these maps are already in the conservation plan and would just be duplicative. The board also verified that the natural resource edits were appropriate.

Dawn Lincoln made a motion to approve the updated master plan with the changes, pending the actual terminology relating to the Cheshire Rail Trail, Steve Houle second, motion passed, Jim Starkey voted no

C. New Business

1. Lauren Bressett noted there were new laws in reference to accessory dwelling units and sign ordinances, and noted the SWRPC planned information session on these changes. Board members were asked to review section 407.2 and sections 431-437 and agricultural items for the next meeting.

Dawn Lincoln made a motion to adjourn, Clay Stalker second, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at
7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Alison Fissette
Planning Board Clerk

Board members agreed to add:

A complete copy of the 2012 Conservation Plan can be obtained from the town office and is available on the town website. (pg 25)

Board members agreed to add:

Section 10 POPULATIONS

10.1 Population Growth

According to the US census bureau the 2013 estimated population of Westmoreland was 1963, (this estimate includes the Cheshire County jail population which no longer is in Westmoreland). (pg 27)

DRAFT