

Westmoreland Planning Board
October 19th, 2015
Meeting minutes

A. Call to Order, Seating Members

Present: Lauren Bressett, Steve Houle, Dawn Lincoln, Alison Fissette, Mark Hayward, Jim Starkey
Russ Austin

Excused absence: Bruce Smith

Lauren Bressett called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

B. Review of Minutes: 09/21/2015

Dawn Lincoln made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Russ Austin second, motion passed.

09/09/2015

Jim Starkey made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Steve Houle second, motion passed

C. Application/Hearing

None

D. New Business

1. Steve Robbins of Poocham Hill Winery asked the board about signage for his business on Poocham Rd, he is looking to have directional signage to his business; many people do struggle to find it. Board members suggested he contact NH DOT and then he will probably need a special exception from the Zoning Board. Lauren Bressett suggested that maybe this is something the board needs to address in the ordinances under section 431 in the future (directional signage)
2. Tim Thompson attended the meeting and stated he would like to fill the vacant position on the board as an alternate. Russ Austin will let Jo Ann know.

E. Old Business

1. Alison Fissette stated, Kris Walker still has not submitted his updated site plan, she had emailed him last week, he replied he would have it for Tuesday. Some discussion ensued, Board members decided if Alison does not receive this material by the 23rd, she will need to send a letter to the property owner and applicant, stating his business is not legal until he has signatures on the updated plat.
2. Master plan update
Board members reviewed edits and/or items to consider editing to the revised master plan update. (see attached edits)
Current use penalty master plan update is suggesting 100% of penalty goes to Conservation Commission, as of now only 50 % does. Lauren Bressett suggests the board review the RSA in reference as to how the monies can be used, who decides and maybe consider ordinances in reference to this.

Steve Houle made a motion to adjourn, Russ Austin second, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Alison Fissette
Planning Board Clerk

At the 11/16/2015 meeting the planning board approved the minutes with the following minor changes:

F. 1 New Business

Steve Robbins of Poocham Hill Winery asked the board about signage for his business ~~on Poocham Rd~~, he is looking to have directional signage to his business; many people do struggle to find it.

G. Old Business

- 3. Alison Fissette stated, Kris Walker still has not submitted his updated site plan, she had emailed him last week, he replied he would have it for Tuesday. Some discussion ensued, Board members decided if Alison does not receive this material by the 23rd, she will need to send a letter to the property owner and applicant, stating his ~~business~~ site plan ~~is~~ is not legal until he has ~~a~~ signatures on the updated plat.*

Edits

SECTION 1

VISION

Incorporating the results of the committee's survey of town residents and property owners, the committee's discussions, and a public hearing; the 2013 Master Plan Update Committee's vision is to achieve the following seven goals for the Town of Westmoreland:

Goal 1: Preserve the present character of the town by supporting land uses that complement the community.

Goal 2: Encourage local employment.

Goal 3: Expand recreational opportunities for town residents.

Goal 4: Identify, preserve and protect cultural, archeological and historic resources.

Goal 5: Maintain a low density residential community with affordable housing.

Goal 6: Provide communication avenues between the town government, residents, and the wider community.

Goal 7: Enhance older residents' ability to live independently in their own homes.

OBJECTIVES - REALIZATION OF THE VISION

Objectives have been established for each of the seven goals as a way to realize the vision:

Goal 1: Preserve the present character of the town by supporting land uses that complement the community.

1. Use the Conservation Plan Inventory of Natural and Cultural Resources as a resource.
2. Use the 2009 Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan as a resource.
3. Use the Town's Zoning and Planning Board regulations as a resource.
4. Encourage land preservation through education, outreach and use of conservation easements to protect prime farmland, undeveloped areas, natural and cultural resources – including County Land.
5. Consider reallocation of percentages of current use Tax Penalty revenue sent to Conservation Fund and ensure clear procedures are established for utilization of this fund.
6. Encourage Historical Society to inventory, preserve, and protect historical properties.
7. Maintain the town's road system in response to citizen's concerns.
8. Maintain the current town's Recycling Center unless better alternatives are clearly developed.
9. Maintain town's cemeteries, assess need for additional cemetery space, and obtain additional space if needed.

Goal 2: Encourage local employment.

1. Encourage installation of three-phase power down Route 12 thru commercial zones.
2. Encourage increased availability and quality of broadband infrastructure **critical to modern business.**
3. **Structure business real estate tax rate at competitive pricing. SKIP BRUCE WORD BETTER ?**
4. Consider establishing a local Chamber of Commerce.
5. **Market the community and advertise business benefits to would-be business owners. NEED TO UNDERSTAND BETTER UNDERLYING EVIDENCE FOR THIS AS GOAL Marketing can also lead to development, what should that look like? Keep Cl**

Goal 3: Expand recreational opportunities for town residents.

1. Support efforts to develop Connecticut River access for recreational purposes.
2. Encourage Recreation Committee to inventory and assess potential recreational sites.
3. Maintain and utilize the capital reserve fund.

Goal 4: Identify, preserve and protect cultural, archeological and historic resources.

1. Encourage the Historical Society to inventory and assess cultural, archeological and historic sites in Town, and help develop a preservation and protection strategy.
2. Ensure that Westmoreland's regulations are favorable to preservation of these resources.

Goal 5: Maintain a low density residential community with affordable housing.

1. Consider town ordinances to support low density residential housing while monitoring the state requirement for workforce housing, including rental and multi-family housing.
2. Establish ordinances addressing installation of solar technology for homeowner use.
3. Consider ordinances addressing use of wind power by homeowners while restricting commercial wind power facilities.

Goal 6: Continue communication avenues between the town government, residents, and the community.

1. Keep the bulletin boards at Town Hall current.
2. Keep the town website (www.westmorelandnh.com) up-to-date and include meeting notices.
3. Institute periodic reports directly from the Select Board for residents.
4. Encourage increased availability and quality of broadband infrastructure for residential access.

Goal 7: Enhance older residents' ability to live independently in their own homes.

1. Ensure town departments and officials keep needs of the elderly in mind and collaborate as appropriate.
2. Consider town ordinances to support low density residential housing while supporting housing for assistance to elderly living in their own homes .