

Westmoreland Master Plan Committee

3/31/2014

Approved minutes

❖ **Call to Order, Members**

Present: Bruce Smith, Carol Austin, Tom Finnegan, John Lukin, Dick Schmidt

Bill Campbell arrived 7:30 PM

7:05 PM Open

❖ **Minutes**

Bruce Smith opened the meeting for Bill Campbell and presented the un-approved minutes of the February 24th master plan committee meetings.

Dick Schmidt made a motion to accept the February 24th minutes, Carol Austin second, all voted to accept.

❖ **New Business**

While waiting for Bill Campbell to join, the group discussed the timing of the Master Plan and agreed to make every effort to complete for next year's annual town meeting March 2015. To accomplish this task a draft of the plan needs to be reviewed by the Planning Board in the September – October time period and schedule a public review.

Bruce Smith will work with Lauren Bressett to review a possible joint meeting with the Planning Board.

The following objectives were reviewed by the group:

Ensure modern town-wide internet services at 3 Mbps

Enable homeowners to install solar panels without significant impediments

Encourage the extension of three-phase power thru Rt 12 commercial zone and beyond

Discourage utility and home owner wind turbines; closely scrutinize proposals for cell towers

Continue to maintain roads at a level that is satisfactory to a majority of residents

Conservation plan inventory of natural and cultural resources used as resource

1997 Ct river corridor management plan used as a resource

Town's zoning and planning board regulations used as a resource (Town Fund = current use tax)

Encourage land preservation through conservation easements to protect prime farmland, undeveloped areas, natural and cultural resources

Encourage historical Society to inventory, preserve, and protect historical properties

Encourage recreation committee to inventory and preserve recreational areas

Maintain the town's road system in response to citizen's concerns

Maintain the current town's recycling center unless better alternatives are clearly developed

Maintain town's cemeteries

Asses need for additional cemetery space and obtain additional space if needed

Zoning for business

Town owned property – acquire source

To protect recreational facilities for the residents of Westmoreland

To continue to maintain, and improve upon, the historical buildings and properties of our town

Identify legal requirements of the town for posting information, indicating which must be accessible to residents when town hall is closed

Post “paper” information on dedicated bulletin boards, clearly labeled

Continue to upgrade the town website, including the above paper notices

Institute an informal Selectmen’s communication on happenings in town

Appoint a “Commission for the elderly” to find ways to assist the elderly to live independently in their own homes

Investigate organizations that do this work to see if a regional presence would be feasible. The Shepherd’s Center is such an organization

Initiate education and outreach to build understanding of and support for land conservation

Generate awareness about conservation options and benefits for owners of high priority lands

Develop incentives to encourage and assist landowners who want to provide permanent protection for their property

At the next meeting the group agreed to start working on an outline for the plan.

Dick Schmidt made a motion to adjourn, Carol Austin seconded, all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting Wednesday April 23rd at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Smith