

# Westmoreland Master Plan Committee

5/5/2014

## Unapproved minutes

### ❖ **Call to Order, Members**

Present: Bill Campbell, Dick Schmidt, Carol Austin, Tom Finnegan, Pat Baker, Bruce Smith, John Lukin,

7:04 PM Open

### ❖ **Minutes**

Bill Campbell called the meeting to order and presented the unapproved minutes of the April 23 rd master plan committee meetings.

Tom Finnegan made a motion to accept the April 23 rd minutes, Dick Schmidt second, all voted to accept.

### ❖ **New Business**

The committee reviewed the Goals and Objective collated at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Carol Austin suggested reviewing the listed order and the committee developed the following:

- 1.0 Preserve the present character of the town.
  - Enable homeowners to install solar panels without significant impediments
  - Discourage utility and home owner wind turbines; closely scrutinize proposals for cell towers
  - 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
  - Protect recreational facilities for the residents of Westmoreland
  - Continue to maintain, and improve upon, the historical buildings and properties of our town
  - Use conservation plan inventory of natural and cultural resources as a resource
  - Use 1997 Connecticut river corridor management plan as a resource
  - Use town's zoning and planning board regulations as a resource
  - Encourage land preservation through conservation easements to protect prime farmland, undeveloped areas, natural and cultural resources, including county land
  - 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
- 2.0 Encourage local employment.
  - Encourage the extension of three-phase power thru Rt 12 commercial zone and beyond
  - Encourage zoning for home businesses
  - Promote and pursue modern town-wide internet services at 3Mbps
- 3.0 Enhance recreational and cultural opportunities.
  - Encourage recreation committee to inventory and preserve recreational areas
  - Protect recreational facilities for the residents of Westmoreland
  - Continue to maintain, and improve upon, the historical buildings and properties of our town
- 4.0 Maintain a low density residential community with affordable housing.
  - Encourage ordinances to support residential community housing
  - Enforce ordinances for residential community housing.
- 5.0 Support non-residential land uses that complement the community.
  - Use conservation plan inventory of natural and cultural resources as a resource
  - Use 1997 Connecticut river corridor management plan as a resource
  - Use town's zoning and planning board regulations as a resource
  - 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
  - Encourage land preservation through conservation easements to protect prime farmland, undeveloped areas, natural and cultural resources
  - Allocate 100% of current use Tax Penalty revenue to Conservation Fund
- 6.0 Provide communication avenues between town government, residents, and wider community
  - 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
  - Promote and pursue modern town-wide internet services at 3Mbps
  - Institute an informal Selectmen's communication on happenings in town
- 7.0 Enhance older residents' ability to live independently in their own homes.

- 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
- Promote and pursue modern town-wide internet services at 3Mbps

Pat Baker will further develop section 3 on cultural opportunities for the next meeting.

The committee will review vision and land use at the next meeting.

Carol Austin made a motion to adjourn, John Lukin seconded, all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Next meeting Monday May 19 th at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Smith