

2014-05-13 Westmoreland Planning Board meeting  
Amended and Approved Minutes

\*Amendments at end of document

PB in attendance: Lauren Bressette, Steve Houle, Dawn Lincoln, Dave Hansel, Jim Starkey  
Bruce Smith arrived at 7:10

Excused absence: June Hammond

Lauren called meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### **Review of Minutes**

Dawn moved to accept the minutes of March 11, 2014, Steve seconded, approved.

Lauren – Alison has been appointed as an alternate since she is at most meetings and will be used as a last resort in order to have a quorum. Board feels we should have another alternate as well and are looking for someone interested.

BOS minutes inaccurately stated that the PB said all portable structures should be taxed and that we are working on the sign ordinance. Both statements are untrue. We did discuss portable structures but did not say that they should all be taxed and we are working on ordinances but not the sign ordinance because that just got changed at the March town meeting.

Board thinks we should put it in writing to the selectmen so this inaccuracy does not stand and a correction can be in the BOS minutes. Jim suggests that we also do away with the selectmen's update or refer people to the official BOS minutes. Decided to remove select board update from our agenda.

Dawn moves that Lauren send an email to the BOS stating that the PB did not propose that all temporary structures be taxed and that we are not working on the sign ordinance. Jim seconds. Approved.

Jim wonders if BOS minutes should state that the PB has official minutes on the website or in the office.

### **Old Business**

1. Iron Clad – Chris Walker ( U1 Lot 5a owner Akbar Ashoury ) - have not heard from them, referred to us from zoning, has been in for an informational session

2. Master plan update (members please review 3/31/14 mp minutes)

Bruce gave us an update. Group of volunteers are mostly long term residents, many were involved in the town planning survey in past at school (3 sessions), some on conservation. Brought copy of survey to distribute. John Lukin tabulated data from survey results. Also have longer answered questions that he can get to us if we want them. Most don't want to see town change at all, want lower taxes. They\* feel that the current master plan now has some unnecessary data and want to reduce the size and make it more concise. Some sections are required, including land use. Looked at goals and tried to tie objectives to them. From handout: 1.0 preserve the present character of the town. 2.0 encourage local employment. 5.0 Support non-residential land uses that complement the community. On the conservation side - what is 1997 CT river corridor management plan? Referenced in old plan. 6.0

provide communication avenues between town government, residents, and wider community. 7.0 enhance older residents ability to live independently in their own homes. This is the first attempt to link these things together.

Lauren 7.0 is not PB work and may not be appropriate for MP. Maybe something like housing with live-in support.

Bruce try to keep in mind this is for 10 years

Dawn 3Mbps may not be appropriate as technology keeps changing

Lauren may be a standard to point to

Dave is MP on line- we're not sure but he needs a copy.

Jim notes\*\* there are limited ways to gather info from residents, #16 open land and farmland important but these cost money, not trying to bring down what you're doing since you're doing a great job.\*\*\*

Bruce fear is how do you do these things? People concerned about county farm, county hired Re-max to get info on selling the Blood Farm.

Lauren saw a sentence in Sentinel article stating that they know they need to come to PB, need to come in for a subdivision.

Jim says we have no control over sale of property.

Dawn state that it is not a proper function of county to own a property to rent out.

MP is meeting next Monday 7 PM

### 3. Ordinance review – continue with definitions, sec 403, agriculture, etc

Cleaned up language on home bus/home occupations/sec 403. Need to look up premises definition which is used many times in home occupation/home business section to determine if this is the appropriate term to be used.

#### **New Business**

Elections: Dawn nominates Lauren for chair. Jim second. Approved.

Dave nominates Dawn for vice chair. Jim second. Approved.

Employee manual – some have not read the manual and signed off on it, Jim stated that we need to read it and sign off that we have read it, Dawn wonders if signing means that you agree to comply. Copy of statement to sign was found and it does mean agreement.

#### **Select Board Update - none**

#### **Letters - none**

Motion to adjourn by Dave at 8:25 PM Approved unanimously.

\*"They" changed to "The Master Plan committee"

\*\*"notes" changed to acknowledges

\*\*\*Delete from "#16 open land....through end of sentence" and replace with "the results of the questionnaire might change once a "price tag" is assigned to each question".

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Lincoln

