

**PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD**

Held on December 18, 2018

minutes approved on
1/15/2018

The Litchfield Planning Board held a meeting in the Town Hall conference room, 2 Liberty Way, Litchfield, NH 03052 on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Croteau - Chairman, Kimberly Queenan - Vice-Chairman, Steven Webber (Selectmen's Rep.), Dennis Page, Tony Turecki (Alternate).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tyler Perrin, Kate Stevens - Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: Jay Minkarah (Executive Director Nashua Regional Planning Commission - NRPC) and Attorney Andrew Prolman. Richard Charbonneau from the public also attended.

CALL TO ORDER Mr. Croteau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tony Turecki is appointed as a voting member for this meeting. Roll call of members.

Public Input: No Public input on non-agenda items.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Mel's Funway Park Lot Consolidation and Site Plan**
- 2. Master Plan Update – Transportation Chapter**

Mel's Funway Park Lot Consolidation and Site Plan Present is Andy Prolman, Esq. representing Mel's Funway. Andy P. made a request to continue the application until the January 15, 2019 meeting. He said there will be a meeting with Keach-Nordstrom

Associates tomorrow morning, and that the two buildings and Haunted Hayride permits will be on the site plan.

Richard (Rick) Charbonneau made public comments to the Planning Board. He asked:
1) How long are we going to continue with this project until we get a plan that is correct?
2) When will they have a right plan? He mentioned we keep looping. He requested to close this case and re-start it. He said the plan has not be ready yet, and that there are a whole bunch of problems out there. He stated that Lou Caron (the Town Engineer) and Jay Minkarah (NRPC) all need time to review the plan. He closed by saying that his idea as an abutter, was that it is time for Mel's to give a real plan that is correct, instead of keep getting it reviewed over and over.

Mike C. stated the had Board waived the 65-day deadline. Mike C. asked Andy P. if he thought he and his client would have everything ready on January 15, 2019. Andy Prolman said yes, that they would be asking for conditional approval.

Jay M. stated he appreciated Rick C.'s concerns, and that the site walk will let us get a revised site plan. He said he wished the site walk was done sooner. Jay M. explained that is it is fair to let the applicants submit a new site plan, to make sure site walk notes were incorporated into the plan.

Rick C. wants to invite the Fire Chief to the January 15, 2019 meeting. Rick C. stated he spoke with the Fire Chief and that the Fire Chief has concerns with the site. Rick C. requested to let the Fire Chief also get a copy of the updated site plan. Steven W. asked Jay M. if he could forward over a copy of the updated site plan to the Fire Chief. Jay M. stated yes. Rick C. stated, here we go again, and that the Fire Chief will also need time to comment on the updated site plan.

Mike C. stated that under the circumstances, Andy P. will have something for the Planning Board for the next meeting. He said he could entertain a motion to continue to January 15, 2019. Dennis P. commented that extending the meeting to January 15, 2019 would give the Fire Chief one month to review the updated plan. Andy P. reminded the Planning Board not to forget that Lou Caron has seen the plans before, and that he would get the updated site plan to Jay M., Lou C. and the Fire Chief.

Kim Q. makes a MOTION to continue the application to Jan 15, 2019. Seconded by Dennis P. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Master Plan Update – Transportation Chapter Jay M. discussed several transportation topics that the Planning Board and NRPC could explore for its' Master Plan Transportation chapter. They were:

- a. A Road Surface Management System Plan is in the works, and it would be good to put it in the transportation chapter.
- b. The Planning Board should look our current Master Plan dated 2017, Chapter 1:
 - Section A – Vision item #8: Jay M. said he has ideas regarding the Airport Access Road. Also, we could explore if the Circumferential Highway is still wanted by the town.
 - Section B – Goals item #5 - the Transportation section: Jay M. noted it was adopted back in 2002 (16+ years ago). We may want to revisit this section, alter it, or add new items to it.
- c. We reviewed Litchfield Traffic Count Trends for 2002-2017, for key highways and street locations around Litchfield. It would have been nice to have trends with the new Exit 13 data. Jay M. said that we could drive around these areas and suggest modifications or changes to improve them, to reflect what now may be needed, such as: 1) utilizing traffic signals, 2) analyzing and modifying speed factors, and 3) creation of roads that would allow for more utilization of pedestrian walkways and bike lanes – like those that exist on both sides of Albuquerque Ave.
- d. We could look at issues beyond the Litchfield Town Line, such as: 1) exploring journey to work travel, 2) find out where people are mainly going to and from, and 3) awareness that Route 102 has heavy volumes of traffic now. How do we prepare for the expected uptick on Route 102 due to development? Londonderry is also having a lot of activity.
- e. We reviewed map V-1 from Master Plan Chapter 5: Transportation – from 2002 (16+ years ago). This map listed State Functional Classification of Litchfield Roads. NRPC will be updating this map with recent streets. Jay stated that Albuquerque Ave on this map is not even connected yet. Jay suggested we should look at reclassification of the streets, such as which ones are now Collectors and which ones are now Arterials.

Dennis P. mentioned the Rt. 102 and Page Road intersection near the new Calawa Circle should be looked at. That intersection is not located in Litchfield. Jay M. suggested that maybe we could look at warrants, and work with the Town that is responsible for that intersection.

Steven W. believed the North part of town may see more traffic.

f. On-Demand transportation for Seniors: Could be explored.

g. Other bike lanes and pedestrian paths in town: See if there is any interest in this.

h. Culverts: Jay M. stated there has been an increase in precipitation and storm events. He said both State and Federal Agencies are looking at culvert sizing and flooding impacts. For transportation projects, he has noticed that Federal Agencies are requiring plans for Flood Resiliency.

Steven W. suggested we inform road agents of the culverts and impacts.

Mike C. suggested exploring bussing, bus routes and public transportation to Nashua, Manchester and Hudson.

Kim Q. suggested for Town/Public Offices any maybe Schools, to explore needed infrastructure for electrical vehicle charging stations.

i. Fixed Dock Bikes. Jay M. stated that they are used in Nashua, mainly for recreation, or transients use it for work. Was not sure there would be a demand in Litchfield for it.

j. Shuttles: Options could be explored to see if there was a demand for it. With more employment around the airport, maybe a shuttle is needed there.

k. Busses: Nothing is fixed route today. Nashua uses some transit busses to go to work.

Jay M. stated that Nashua's two most popular bus routes are 1) to Walmart in Manchester, 2) to Walmart in Hudson.

l: Explore area connections like Vanpools and Park-and-Rides. Londonderry is also served by Boston Express.

m. Litchfield does not have a transient-dependent population. However, maybe trips for population sector who needs to get to stores, medical appts, etc. Jay M. mentioned the Greyhound Bus Station Mohegan Sun in Nashua New Hampshire could serve as a model. Jay M. noted that Merrimack, Hudson, Amherst and Milford push resident transportation.

Dennis P. questioned if our 10-to-15 year and 20-year transportation plans can actually come to life. Jay M. explained the major pieces of the Circumferential Highway project and other projects being modelled/explored. Jay M. stated:

1. That is why that State of NH purchased half of the right of way in Hudson up to Rt 111 (for the Circumferential Highway).
2. Hudson proposed a new Warrant Article to develop Rt 3A/Rt 111 as a Town

Funded project. They also put in a build grant. It will be like Albuquerque Ave., with much lower impact.

3. Some want the northern part of the Circumferential Highway completed,

however, the likelihood is pretty remote.

4. There is a Northern Bridge illustrative concept, but no funding for it.
5. The Northern Bridge step would be at DWH at exit 10. Originally, it was to be a

straight-thru turnpike to a new exit 9, which is the most sensitive environmentally, since it is near the Pennichuck Pond systems.

6. Being modelled from Rt. 111 to the Sagamore Bridge. It significantly reduces

traffic. You would get off Hudson Blvd. to the Sagamore Bridge. Most traffic is going south, so local roads would see a significant drop.

7. There was a corridor study done, to replace the Taylor Falls Bridge with an “in

kind” bridge – but not an expansion. They need to revisit this option to improve capacity, not just focus on the age of the bridge.

n. Traffic Signal Study/Infrastructure can help capacity of cars.

Kim Q. asked Jay M., in regard to the 10-to-15 year and 20-year transportation plan

pieces he just described above, that is sounded like there was no funding for all main project pieces. Jay said yes.

Closing: Jay M. will do research and prepare a draft of part of the Transportation

chapter. Mike C. said he would like if the Board could research what other towns like Litchfield have done.

Committee Reports Mike C: Conservation Committee is reviewing a conceptual design of a gas station near Moore's Falls. Mike C. and Jay M. are researching if there are issues with the aquifer.

Kim Q: 1) NRPC: Kim Q. received town input and will vote yes to the NRPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which lists the proposed Circumferential Highway project in the fiscally constrained category. 2) The Heritage Commission held its' first meeting. They are working on creating their By-Laws.

Approval of Minutes Steven W. makes a MOTION to approve the November 20, 2018 minutes, Dennis P. seconds. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Steven W. makes a MOTION to approve the December 4, 2018 minutes, Dennis P. seconds. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Other Business Mike C.: 1) stated he spoke with Tyler Perrin and believes Tyler will be resigning. Tyler would be sending Joan McKibben his resignation from the Planning Board and from being an NRPC Commissioner. 2) Kate S. expressed interest in joining NRPC. 3) Would have Tony T. become a full-time member. 4) noted it was Dennis Page's last meeting, that the board was losing a valuable member and it was a pleasure working with him. Everyone agreed. 5) the Clerk role is needed for the Board.

Kim Q. makes a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Tony T. Motion passes 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted
by Kimberly Queenan