

## **Canaan Planning Board**

### **Minutes**

Meeting of May 13, 2010

#### **Call to Order:**

Andrew Musz called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Members present: John Bergeron, Joe Frazier, Pete Gibson (alternate), Andrew Musz, Chuck Townsend, Steve Ward and Marcia Wilson. Andrew Musz appointed Pete Gibson to fill Dan Ware's seat.

#### **Election of Officers:**

Joe Frazier nominated Andrew Musz for the office of Chair, seconded by Chuck Townsend. There being no other nominations the board cast one vote for the nominee.

Steve Ward nominated John Bergeron for the office of Vice-Chair, seconded by Joe Frazier. There being no other nominations the board cast one vote for the nominee.

#### **Minutes:**

Chuck Townsend read the minutes of the April 22, 2010 meeting. Marcia Wilson moved that the minutes be approved as read. Steve Ward provided the second and the board approved the motion.

#### **Correspondence:**

Local Government Center – Announcement of fall golf tournament

#### **7:15 Review Plat - Easement change on property, Eight Days O'Week Realty:**

Matthew Dow presented the revised plan for the Map 15A Lot 54 property. The plan appeared to be the same as the previously approved plan except for a reduction in width of the right-of-way to the interior plots to 30 feet wide, and the addition of a note clarifying that the change does not alter property lines and does not require a public hearing. Chuck Townsend moved that the Planning Board approve the revised plat for signing. Joe Frazier provided the second and the Board approved the motion. Andrew Musz signed the Mylar. Matt Dow will assume the responsibility for recording it with the Registry of Deeds.

#### **7:30 Joint Meeting – Planning Board and Select Board**

Andrew Musz opened the meeting requested by the Select Board to obtain input and direction from the Planning Board regarding designation of the Mascoma River from the Enfield Line to Canaan Center for participation in the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program as a Rural River. In attendance supporting the discussion were Laura Weit-Marcum (Rivers Coordinator for DES), Rachael Ruppel (Planner for UVLSRPC), Bill Chabot (Co-Chairman of Canaan Conservation Commission) and members of the public.

Concerns explored during the discussion included Canaan's membership in UVLSRPC, on the limitation in dam construction that would be imposed by participation, and in funding for the development of a management plan and for carrying out the management that would protect the river for future generations. Canaan will need to join Lebanon and Enfield in submitting their nomination before June 1, 2010, or the nomination can not be acted on until next year, at a time when the UVLSRPC funding to conduct a resource assessment and support the nomination will have been expended. Canaan could withdraw from the nomination at any time up to legislative designation of the Mascoma River into the program a year from now.

The Rural-Community designation as described RSA 483:9-a prohibits new dams but allows repair of breached dams within six years and allows new run-of-the-river hydroelectric facilities at those dams. Conserved land and residences border much of the Mascoma River in Canaan. There are breached dams but limited current potential for their repair. The Board discussed whether the town should forgo possibility of future development of such dams.

Funding for development of a management plan is currently available through a federal EPA grant to the NH DES and from them to UVLSRPC. Project funding for river management raised by future grants would be available to Canaan as well as Enfield and Lebanon if the town participates. Canaan representatives in the Local River Management Advisory Committee (LAC) would have an equal say with downstream communities in developing and carrying out the river management plan.

John Bergeron moved that the Planning Board support the nomination of portions of the Mascoma River in Canaan as a rural component in the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. Chuck Townsend seconded the motion. The vote supporting the motion was 5 to 2, with John Bergeron, Chuck Townsend, Andrew Musz, Marcia Wilson and Pete Gibson voting yea, and Joe Frazier and Steve Ward voting nay.

Rachel Ruppel announced an additional public informational meeting on the Mascoma River designation at Enfield Community Building on Tuesday May 18 at 7:30 pm.

#### **8:40 Voluntary Mergers:**

The board reviewed a request by David Zani to merge three Map 3 lots, lots 48-3, 48-4 and 48-5 into a single lot. John Bergeron moved that the Planning Board sign the voluntary merger agreement. Joe Frazier seconded the motion. It was approved and Board members signed the agreement.

The board reviewed a request by David Zani and Patricia Sweetser to merge Map 12 lot 48 and and Map 12 Lot 49 into a single lot. Chuck Townsend moved that the Planning Board sign the voluntary merger agreement. Joe Frazier seconded the motion. It was approved and Board members signed the agreement.

#### **Other Business**

##### **- Intent to Excavate Letter:**

Andrew Musz reviewed the history of excavation requirements and enforcement. The Board reviewed the letter now being used by the Select Board to notify excavators that they are required to come to the Planning Board for an Excavation Permit in addition to completing an Intent to Excavate form.

##### **- Planning and Zoning Conference:**

Joe Frazier and Marcia Wilson attended the Planning and Zoning Conference. Joe reported on the conference and particularly on broadband buildout and the [www.IWantBroadbandNH.org](http://www.IWantBroadbandNH.org) website which has updates on broadband availability and has a link to test the speed of your connection and contribute to the needs assessment.

##### **- Capital Improvement Plan:**

Steve Ward reported on informal meetings he has had with department heads to discuss the value and process of CIP. In June he will meet with Michael Capone to plan CIP request collection details.

#### **9:25 Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Ward, seconded by Marcia Wilson and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Townsend, Acting Scribe