

Planning Board Meeting
April 26, 2016

Present: Selectman Rep. Mike Darcy, Chair Sean Leary, Dwight Smith, Stefan Zielonko, Zeb Hildreth, Morris Klein, Dorianne Almann, and CDC Kathryn Lynch. Mari Brunner and Liz Kelly from SWRPC were also in attendance. Alternate William Nebelski was excused. Applicants were present and there were no members of the public present.

6:30 pm: Chair Leary called the meeting to order. Chair Leary read the agenda, for the continued discussion with 571 Realty Trust pertaining to a sign application. Jared Savinelli passed out a schematic of the proposed sign to the Board with the dimensions included. The sign will be 96" x 48", which is 32 sq. ft. Selectman Darcy made a motion to accept the sign application. He was seconded by Zeb Hildreth. The motion passed unanimously. With no public present Chair Leary closed the public portion of the meeting and asked for questions or comments from the Board. Dorianne Almann asked if the sign will be lit. Yes it will be lit the same as it is currently. The sign is on a timer it comes on June 20th – July 5th and December 20th – January 31st from 9pm to 1am. Dorianne Almann also asked if the post will be able to handle the sign as it will be about twice the size. Yes it will. CDC Kathryn Lynch explained that the sign cannot be any taller that it is now. Mr. Savinelli explained that it will be the same height as it currently is even if they have to cut the post. CDC Lynch also commented that the sign looks exactly the same as what was presented last month, aside from the yellow background which Mr. Savinelli had explained was a mistake to begin with. Mr. Savinelli explained yes it's the same. CDC Lynch commented that she thought Mr. Savinelli was going to shrink the dragon and bring in a few options for the Board to review. Mr. Savinelli said no I didn't shrink the dragon or bring in any other options. Dwight Smith made a motion to approve the sign as long as it conforms to the height requirements from the Building Inspector. He was seconded by Stefan Zielonko. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Leary read the public notice for an Application for Minor Development Review Subdivision submitted by Matthew & Michele McCosker, tax map 13, lot 7, 196 Tower Hill Rd., in the Rural Agricultural District, applicant proposes to subdivide existing lot 13-7 into two lots as depicted on the plan. Selectmen's Rep. Darcy made a motion to accept the application dated 3-15-16. He was seconded by Zeb Hildreth. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. McCosker explained that he hired David Mann to do the survey and subdivision. The family wants to downsize and build another home on the proposed lot. With no public present Chair Leary closed the public portion of the meeting and asked for questions or comments from the Board. Ms. Almann commented that there is a stream on the property and asked about possible flooding. Mr. McCosker explained that he was very aware that no building could occur within 75' of the stream and that the stream hasn't flooded in the eleven years that he has lived there. It is a small spring from the Duggan property that dries up in the summer. Selectmen's Rep. Darcy made a motion to approve the subdivision dated 9-9-2015. He was seconded by Dwight Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

6:50 pm Selectmen's Rep. Darcy was excused from the meeting.

Board Business:

Mari Brunner and Liz Kelly from Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) were present to discuss the proposed Complete Streets Ordinance and the Rack it Up program. Also joining the Board for discussion was Frank Podlenski, Highway Superintendent. Mari passed information out to the Board, Hinsdale Complete Streets Typology – Draft (copy of this document is available in the Community Development Office – Hinsdale). She explained that it is more of a checklist of considerations for the town to consider. Starting on Page 3 – Town Center Streets – Depot Rd., NH Rt. 119/Brattleboro Rd., Main Str., NH Rt. 63/Chesterfield Rd., Northfield Rd., School Str. The topics were sidewalk, green buffer, street furniture, lighting and wayfinding. Wayfinding is a great way for pedestrians and bicyclists to see landmarks, access points to the rail trail and distances in terms of time (i.e. minutes walking or biking to a destination).

Frank explained that the town is small, and we are lucky that the roads we have are wide enough for cars. To put addition lanes for pedestrians and bicyclist isn't feasible. He explained that we cannot afford to lose parking downtown. To have sidewalks on both sides of any road isn't ideal, we don't have the room. The town has been working on the sidewalks from 63 south up to the school and to add sidewalks on both sides would be an added cost of approx. three to four hundred thousand dollars. Two years ago at Town Meeting, Monument Road was turned down by the voters and it was all necessary improvements. Frank felt that the focus should be from the school to Main Street. That it is scary for walkers on Plain Road, it's just not wide enough, and there is no room for bike lanes. Monument Road has houses right up to the road, there is no room for expansion. Frank explained that it's a great idea but he wasn't sure if it was a fit for Hinsdale.

Mari explained that all of these suggestions do not need to be implemented, it is truly a guideline. Having a Complete Streets Policy helps when applying for grant money. NH DOT does work with towns that have Complete Streets Policy's to help implement these changes when building new roads or when they are doing construction on current roadways.

Board discussed the need for improvement from Main Street to the school. The Board discussed that there is poor visibility at the end of Plain Road. That the speed limits through town and on Brattleboro Rd. through the Roadside Commercial District should be looked at for speed reduction.

Mari explained that they can prioritize from town center to the school. That bike lanes on Rt. 119 downtown could be sharrows (shared lane markers), which does not add to the width of the lanes but gives clear indicators to motorist that they share the road with bicyclists. Sharrows also do not take away parking spaces from the roadway. Sharrows are three feet from the white line to keep bicyclist out of the way of car doors. Mari also explained that she assumed the NHDOT would use the same paint for the line that is used now. She also commented that as she drove through town and there were many personally purchased signs stating "slow children". In these places traffic calming strategies could help. Traffic calming strategies visually narrow the roadway so drivers tend to slow down, and studies show that these strategies do work. Mari explained that she will consider all the input given by the Board and Frank. She explained that these are simply guidelines and she will go through the draft and put more emphasis on the roads from town center to school.

Mari passed out information about the Complete Streets Demonstration. She received permission from NHDOT to do the event, it will be the first event on a State Route. The town will need to fill out a Parade Permit Application. CDC Lynch will fill it out and ask the Selectmen to sign. All material used in the demonstration will need to be approved by the State. Frank explained that they can store any material at the highway garage. The event is planned to coincide with the Farmers Market. The date is scheduled for July 10th. There will be asking a few food trucks to be there. Board explained there a few local vendors they wish to be asked. Farmers Market already has music booked for that day. Mari explained that they will need volunteers for the event. Some local groups the Board mentioned were the Lion's Club, Knights of Columbus, Pisgah Mt. Trail Riders, and the National Honor Society. Mari explained there will be a booth with pictures, they will be striping the roadway and adding plantings. This is to show sharrows and traffic calming. All the tape is temporary. They will set up Saturday night and wear reflective gear. There will be staff and interns at the event. She will see if they can wear the same color shirt for distinction. The event start time will be 11am and may go past 1pm when the farmers market closes. CDC Lynch will discuss the event with Pastor Momaney ASAP and Karen Johnson from the Community Center so that no conflicts occur. This event should be a great opportunity for the community.

Liz Kelly discussed the Rack it Up program. She explained that they are almost ready to order the bike racks. She asked the Board if there were any other possible locations needing bike racks. The Board explained that another great area for bike racks would be the library. Liz said that four racks could be installed at that location. The bike racks should be ready to be installed by June.

Zeb Hildreth made a motion to approve the minutes as amended dated March 15, 2016. He was seconded by Stefan Zielonko. The motion passed unanimously.

Zeb Hildreth made a motion to have Chair Leary sign the driveway permit for Fostyck on Tower Hill Rd. He was seconded by Dwight Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

CDC Kathryn Lynch passed out information to the Board about an upcoming conference on Accessory Dwelling Units and Sign Ordinances and a workshop on May 16th presented by Attorney John Ratigan at Town Hall.

With no other business to discuss, Stefan Zielonko made a motion to adjourn. He was seconded by Zeb Hildreth. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Lynch