

**ATKINSON PLANNING BOARD**  
**Atkinson, New Hampshire**

**Public Hearing/Workshop Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2005**

**Present: Susan Killam, Chairman; Paul DiMaggio, Vice-Chairman (8:15);  
Harold Morse**  
**Alternates: Ted Stewart; John Miller**

Ms. Killam called the meeting to order at 8:02pm.

**DISCUSSION - Fannie Graves re: Town Recreation Path**

Fannie Graves from Squire Drive presented a proposal for a Town Recreation Path for discussion.

Ms. Graves would like to initiate and follow through with planning, estimating and implementing of a non-motorized recreation path in Atkinson. The path will serve as a safe outdoor means of exercise or non-motorized travel to various points in Atkinson. The proposal will connect the center of Town to locations such as Pope Field, Atkinson Academy, Atkinson Library, Atkinson Country Club, Post Office, Timberlane School and various neighborhoods between these locations.

The path direction will be determined by private, municipal, state and federal land availability's while taking into consideration conservation issues with those areas.

For funding she is looking at the New Hampshire Grant in Aid Program, NHDOT TE/CMAQ Programs, private donations and taxpayer approval. Ms. Graves listed several web sites the Board could look at.

Ms. Graves researched other trails in New England such as in Stowe, VT. She felt we could start with simple trails and gradually expand the trails. She was thinking of a paved surface.

Mr. Stewart had looked into town trails before and was happy that someone was willing to undertake this project. He cautioned that he had applied for funding three different times and the townspeople had voted it down every time. He also proposed sidewalks from the academy to the high school and the high school to along East Rd. to Rte.125. The money requested was close to \$200,000. At that time there was some big money items before the people, which made it a difficult time to sell something. Mr. Stewart stated that he would like to sit down with Ms. Graves and show her the trails that the town has today that connects to the Hampstead Trail System. These trails are not paved and Mr. Stewart felt that the only logical area to see paved sidewalks would be around our recreation

facilities. Mr. Stewart felt that, once you start dealing with private landowners trying to connect the dots is extremely difficult.

Ms. Graves felt that it would take about five years to plan the trail system out. Trail systems have been developed within some of the recently passed developments and these trails would be the most logical to extend. Mr. Stewart felt that the town is very fortunate that there are many landowners that allow us to use their trail systems. The town is not able to publicize these trails. The most difficult part is to walk the fine line between trying to get the trails into a situation where the town can manage them and not offending the landowners.

Mr. Miller stated that maps showing the existing trails should be reviewed. Mr. Stewart noted that the Conservation Commission has done extensive mapping of the trails. By reviewing these maps you can then see how these trails can be connected when land is developed. Discussion continued on how the elderly can use these trails and where some of these trails are located. Mr. Stewart thought the town should designate areas that would be more feasible to maintain and then try to connect the dots to join them. Mr. Stewart noted that most of the existing trails are motorized. The Planning Board has tried to keep this in mind when approving plans.

Ms. Graves felt that if we keep a broad open mind there are ways to connect these trails, it has to be researched. Mr. Stewart suggested that Ms. Graves contact the Conservation Commission first. Mr. Miller referred to the Master Plan in the Transportation Section where there are two sections that talk about promoting these trails and how to secure funding for this purpose. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Miller offered to help. This question could be proposed in a survey when the Master Plan is updated. Ms. Killam questioned how these trails could be advertised and what the Conservation Commission has done in making parking areas available.

Ms. Graves will contact Mr. Kukshel, Conservation Commission.  
The discussion was closed at 8:28pm.

Correspondence

- Incoming
- 1. Town of Derry Legal Notice for hearing 2/2/05.
- 2. City of Haverhill Legal Notice for hearings: 2/8, 2/9, 2/15.
- 3. Planning Board Budget printout dated 1/31/05.

Outgoing

- 1. Derek Russell dated 1/24/05 re: Approval of Application for Amended Site Plan, 11 Industrial Way.
- 2. Legal Notice for Public Hearing meeting of 2/16/05.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 18 & 19, 2005**

The minutes of January 18, 2005 were reviewed.

**Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2005 as written. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Discussion:** Mr. DiMaggio asked how the Board could control the timing/phasing of subdivisions and if it had to be through zoning. Ms. Killam stated that Attorney Kalman suggested the Board look at subdivisions in site plan. This could be a workshop topic.

The minutes of January 19, 2005 were reviewed and the following corrections were made:

Page 1, first full paragraph in the Public Hearing, third sentence, change '184' to '180 sq. ft.'

Page 3, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last word, change 'bollards' to 'bollords'.

**Mr. Morse made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2005 as amended. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. Motion approved. Mr. DiMaggio abstained.**

The Workshop Discussion was opened at 8:50pm.

### **Workshop Discussion**

#### Master Plan Chapters to be updated.

Ms. Killam reported that there is \$5,000 in the budget to start working on the Master Plan. The Board decided on what chapters needed to be worked on. Mr. Miller volunteered to work on this and more committee members are needed. Rockingham Planning had someone at every meeting to assist committee members during the last update. Ms. Killam suggested contacting some previous committee members to see if they would help. Frannie Graves, Ted Stewart, and John Miller will work on the Master Plan Committee and Paul DiMaggio and Harold Morse will work on the Buildout Study.

The following chapters should be updated:

- The Introduction
- Community Profile
- Community Facilities
- School Population and Projections
- Goals and Objectives
- Projected Buildout
- Natural Resources
- Housing Element
- Survey
- Transportation

The Rockingham Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission should be consulted on some of these chapters.

Ms. Killam suggested that, in the chapters that don't require a lot of rewrite, the committee concentrate on the Recommendation Page of each chapter. She reminded members that, when a Master Plan is updated, it is a vision for the community that is obtainable and not the will of the body that is writing the report. Mr. DiMaggio felt that if we are close to buildout and our infrastructure is in place there might be more town funds available for granite curbs and sidewalks. Mr. DiMaggio discussed the scenic vista and noted that the Board should consider working on instituting a commercial scenic vista ordinance.

The first thing the Board will do is write up what it attends to accomplish this year and give it to the Rockingham Planning Commission so that they can come up with a cost for their recommendations and the printing of the Master Plan. The next step is to get the volunteers to work on the committee. Ms. Killam highly recommended calling the previous committee members. The CIP will follow. This and is an outcome of the Master Plan. A separate committee will be needed. The Board discussed putting the CIP on line.

#### Regulation and Use Book typo corrections

Ms. Killam suggested the Board reviewed the book and jot down any corrections noted.

#### Future Objectives for Planning Board

The road specs need to be updated. We need to get a handle on what inspections are done. At this time there is no schedule for inspections. The developers are given an idea of what they might expect and its up to our engineer to tell them how many inspections and when. Mr. Stewart noted that there is no accountability. The Board may have to put an article on the ballot to change this procedure.

The first step is to prepare an Article for next year once the Road Spec. chapter gets rewritten. Mr. Morse will help with this.

Mr. Miller asked how we get input from other departments. Ms. Killam suggested writing a letter to the various Board's and department heads requesting their input.

#### Planning Board Membership

Several Board members' terms are up this year. Ms. Cheney has suggested that, because she has had problems attending the meetings, she step back to an alternate. This would create an opening for a full time member that can attend meetings. Ms. Killam would like to have more continuity for the developer. Ms. Killam expressed frustration in not being able to start meetings on time and having to call people to get a quorum.

**Mr. Stewart made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.**

The meeting was closed at 10:00pm

Next scheduled Planning Board Public Hearing meeting February 16, 2005.

**APPROVED** \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully submitted,

Carol Kater