

**Ashland Planning Board
Amended Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Susan MacLeod, Chair of the Ashland Planning Board, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Members present were Mardean Badger, Susan MacLeod, Carol Fucarile, Fran Newton and Leigh Sharps.

OTHERS PRESENT

Others present were David Toth and Mike Izard, representing Lakes Region Planning Commission.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The Planning Board reviewed the minutes from their Wednesday, November 29, 2017 meeting. After extensive review Mardean Badger made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Carol Fucarile seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative and one abstention the motion passed.

PRESENTATION

Mike Izard, Planner with the Lakes Region Planning Commission and the Ashland Source Water Protection subcommittee (representatives from the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Conservation Commission) made a presentation to the Ashland Planning Board. The presentation detailed the results of the subcommittee meetings in the past several months. The subcommittee presented a draft Groundwater Protection ordinance to protect the town well head. The following points were made in the presentation:

- The Ashland portion of the aquifer covers 2.7 square miles which is approximately 23.5% of the Ashland land area. The wellhead protection area (WHPA) covers approximately ½ square mile area. 53% of the WHPA is in Ashland and 47% in Bridgewater.
- Pemi Overlay ordinance has little effect on water protection.
- Concern was raised about contamination of the town drinking water from salt runoff from the I-93 corridor as well as chlorine contamination. Desalinization of Ashland's water is being researched by the Water and Sewer Department.
- The well is rated for 1-2 million gallons a day. It has the potential to produce 6 million gallons of drinking water a day. The town's present consumption of drinking water is 250,00-300,000 gallons a day.
- There are 14 parcels of land within the groundwater protection area.
- A radius of 400' extending out from the present well head is the present protection area. This 400' needs to be fenced off.
- It was recommended by the subcommittee that the Planning Board do extensive outreach to the entire community relative to the safety of their drinking water. One of the talking points to the entire community would be to emphasize that the Groundwater Protection Ordinance does not effect local business or local residents.
- It is recommended to do extensive outreach to those property owners and businesses that fall within the water protection area. To explain the benefits of the ordinance and the need for their support for this ordinance.
- It is recommended to put a copy of the finalized ordinance on the Planning Board webpage well in advance of Town Meeting to allow residents and business owners to review the ordinance before Town Meeting.
- The Planning Board will administer the ordinance and will also grant the conditional permits.

- The Fire Department has final approval of all prevention plans.
- The Selectboard has the responsibility of setting fees and fee schedules.
- The landowner has the responsibility for all enforcement of codes and inspections.
- The Groundwater Protection ordinance needs to be seen as a means to protect a vital natural resource. Reference to this ordinance needs to be included in the present Master Plan.
- It is recommended to create a media campaign and give presentations at the deliberative sessions. Emphasize that the passing of this ordinance will protect the town's drinking water now and in the future.
- Two Public Hearings will be scheduled on Wednesday, January 3 and Wednesday, January 10, 2018 to present the Groundwater Protection ordinance to the town and those within the protection area. These hearings will also include other proposed land use amendments.

The Presentation concluded at 7:30 PM.

The Planning Board extensively reviewed the wording of the proposed ordinance.

The Planning Board briefly discussed the Excavation and Driveway Regulations. At the conclusion of the discussion the issue was tabled for this meeting. The issue will be discussed further at a future meeting in the new year.

The Planning Board discussed briefly their most recent Economic Development Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. At that meeting there were 40 in attendance. The presentation for the meeting focused on the redevelopment of the mill property in Ashland. The group discussed the next steps in the redevelopment process.

ADJOURNMENT

Fran Newton made a motion to adjourn. Carol Fucarile seconded the motion. With all votes in the affirmative the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Paula Hancock