

**Ashland Planning Board  
Draft Minutes  
February 3, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER: Susan MacLeod, chair of the Ashland Planning Board called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present for the meeting were Susan MacLeod, Mardean Badger and Cheryl Cox

MEMBERS ABSENT: Members absent were Fran Newton, Carol Fucarile, and Normand DeWolfe

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: Members of the public present at the meeting were Kathleen DeWolfe and Walter Durack

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The minutes for the January 6, 2016 and January 27, 2016 meetings were reviewed by the Planning Board. Mardean Badger made a motion to approve the January 6, 2016 minutes. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed.

The minutes for the January 27, 2016 meeting were reviewed. The recommendation was made that when referring to a particular property that the lot number be cited. For the Citizens Inquiry the lot number is M-L 004-002-002. For the Keith Philbrick property the lot number is 008-002-012. The attorney reviewed the chart. Mardean Badger made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Cheryl Cox seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed. The Citizens Inquiry (the Burger King lights) there is a copy of the Citizens Inquiry and the Planning Board's response included with the minutes.

The Ashland Planning Board and Kathleen DeWolfe and Walter Durack of the Conservation Commission discussed the subject of Storm Water Management. Susan MacLeod discussed Storm Water Management with David Jeffers of Meredith concerning the recent draft of a Storm Water Management regulation that Meredith has been working on. Angela LaBrecque, Meredith Town Administrator and John Edgar, of Meredith Community Planning were part of the conversation. Susan would like to obtain the final version of the regulation in a Microsoft Word format which she can download and modify for use by Ashland.

The discussion then focused on whether the Storm Water Management regulation would fit into a Site Plan Review regulation or a Subdivision regulation. If so there could be some flexibility. If the Storm Water Management regulation was part of a Zoning Ordinance there would be less flexibility. The business owner or resident would need to go to the ZBA for a variance. There was concern raised about such an ordinance in the ZBA process. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission would like to see the ZBA brought up to speed on Storm Water Management issues. There was concern raised about the expense of such an ordinance on the local resident. There was concern expressed about how to deal with storm water runoff from our local roadways. It was decided that the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission work

together to formulate the Storm Water Management regulation for the town of Ashland. It was noted in the conversation that the storm water system is separate from the town sewer system. Anything that enters the closed water system is considered storm water.

There are several policies that need to be initiated in Ashland:

- Pump water drains once a year
- Clear brush and debris from around storm drains
- Clean debris from ditches and remove the debris to a Transfer Station
- Maintain and repair culverts in a manner to meet current State regulations

As Storm Water Management regulations become law at the State level individual towns and individual residents can find themselves liable for not following the regulation/law.

Walter Durack of the Conservation Commission advised the Planning Board that the town budget has been increased to pay for the enrollment of DPW employees in courses and training to teach them about the new laws/regulations on Storm Water Management. If there should be any questions about the new laws the DES and UNH websites are the sources of information to answer these questions. Fact sheets can be downloaded from the DES website to keep the Town Administrator up to date on the latest laws and regulations. The general public and town employees can be educated by downloading information to the town website.

If there is a question about Storm Water Management issues relative to the construction of a house, the Building Inspector can withhold the permit until the issue can be settled by DES. He can inquire at higher state levels until the issue has a resolution. It was suggested that through more conditional approvals and more compliance hearings the Planning Board can educate the public about the new laws concerning Storm Water Management. The ramifications of not following Storm Water Management laws is that there could be an expensive failure and in the event of an application to FEMA for storm damage FEMA may reject the application for not using the properly state approved repair materials in the initial repair.

The Planning Board is going to continue conversations with Meredith. They will look at other town Storm Water Management regulations in Word format to see what might be applicable to Ashland's circumstances. It was suggested that the conversation about Storm Water Management include the DPW, the Water and Sewer Department, the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission.

The Planning Board and the Conservation Commission will reread and update Chapter 4 of the Master Plan concerning Transportation. It was suggested that other town committees and commissions be asked to participate in the rewrite.

The Planning Board discussed Design Standards for the town. It was suggested that the conversation include members of the Economic Development Committee, building owners and business owners. The conversation could take place at a regularly scheduled Planning Board Work Session.

## ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is the Board meeting, will be Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:30 pm at the Ashland Town Hall.

With nothing more to come before it the Board adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 8: 40 PM.

*Minutes submitted by Paula Hancock*