

ASHLAND PLANNING BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2012

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:05

Present

Susan MacLeod, Frances Newton, Gordon McCormack Jr., Jeanette Stewart, Alternate

Elizabeth Cody

Absent with notice – Anthony Randall

Absent without notice: Robert Boyle

Guest: Mike Izard

Discussion of Draft Chapter 8, Economic Development

Section 8.1, Historical Perspective, needs to be updated to include information from 1990 through the present day. For example, a significant change in the town's economy occurred at the closing of the Packard mill in 2002. Some business names need updating as well.

A suggestion was made to refer to business street addresses rather than historical names might ensure consistency over the years.

Use of the Master Plan document - The Master Plan serves as a blueprint for our current situation and provides direction for moving forward with recommendations and implementation plans.

Include a paragraph about small businesses rather than naming each one. This will ensure that we don't inadvertently leave one or more off and will remain current given the ebb and flow of businesses in town.

Some of the recommendations were discussed. It was agreed that the ARA inventory is still important as is the development of a TIF or Historic District

Chapter needs further input as to what the town is trying to accomplish; felt technical lingo needed to be eliminated.

Natural Resources chapter is still a work in progress with the help of the Conservation Commission

Last chapter to be worked on will be the Implementation Chapter.

Other Business

Minutes will be reviewed at the January meeting.