

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
PLANNING BOARD
Minutes of the Meeting- November 10, 2014

Present David McKenzie, Chairman
 Christopher Maple, Vice Chairman
 Jeffrey Rose, Ex Officio
 Sam Cohen

Guest Gary MacKinnon

Chairman McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes of the October 27, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted with modifications.

Chairman McKenzie presented a copy of a letter that was sent to Holly Mecheski pertaining to required variances.

It was noted that the Master Plan Vision Statement and results of the town wide survey are now posted on the town website. The vision statement needs to be incorporated into the Master Plan. Christopher Maple will work on the 2014 update to the pdf document. The Board will continue to work on updating the Master Plan.

The Board discussed possible changes in the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to farming. Gary MacKinnon will contact the NH Extension at UNH to inquire about a statewide ordinance for livestock and a limit on density. The Board is interested in changing the Ordinance to allow for small scale farming in Bennington. A public hearing would need to be set by January 12, 2015 for any changes to the Zoning Ordinance. The Board also discussed the possibility of a Zoning Ordinance change to allow farm stands. A concern about safety and parking was expressed. The Board was concerned with over regulating. If a citizen wishes to have a farm stand one could possibly apply for a conditional use permit. Chairman McKenzie offered to research other towns to see what they might have for regulations. This was tabled until the next meeting.

It was noted that there will be no Planning Board meeting on December 22, 2014.

Gary MacKinnon gave the Board a brief history of himself. Gary is interested coming to Planning Board meetings and possibly joining the Board.

The Board received a letter from Crotched Mountain Ski and Ride noting their hours of operation. There was some discussion about the Midnight Madness event. It was noted that the later it gets, the more drinking there is. Gary MacKinnon noted that he lives on the mountain and even though there might be drinking at these events, the personnel from the ski area do a good job of cleaning up after the event.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher
Planning Board Recording Secretary