

Town of Guilford  
Planning Commission Meeting Notes  
19 November 2014 7 - 8:30 pm

**Commission Members:**

Tanya Balsley, \*Chuck Clark, \*Harry Evans, \*Michelle Frehsee, \*Jackie Gaines, \*Hal Kuhns, \*Andy Loughney, \*Herb Meyer, \*Sheila Morse (\*present)

Meeting held in the Town Office **Call to order at 7:00**

**Recognition of Public :** Erin Tkaczyk and Beth Bristol of School Board

**New Business**

**1. School Board Draft of Education Section of Town Plan**

- a. During the discussion while Erin and Beth were present it was noted that
  - i. the School Board plans to revise the original draft they sent the PC;
  - ii. must address Pre-K issue for Town Plan, as mandated by State...
  - iii. a challenge in arriving at a 5-year vision statement is due to the fact that terms of board members are varied. If some are on the board for 1 year only that impacts the possibility of creating and monitoring a long-term vision.
  - iv. Financially in such a crunch that preparing and presenting a budget to present to Town Meeting in 3/2015 is their major focus.
  - v. Harry asked if the school board have understanding of town demographic need for education. They affirmed they do.
  - vi. Planning Commission members will work with School Board on their 12/15 6:30 pm meeting.
  - vii. They suggested and we applaud their intent to involve the school principal and the supervisor in this process.
- b. Subsequent to Erin and Beth's departure PC members declared a preference for keeping our kids in school in Guilford for at least K-6. Additional topics covered in the ensuing conversation included:
  - i. the need to focus on the topic of delivery of education and related services, not just if we can educate our kids in town BUT, at what cost and how effectively. We are mindful of the problem that not every school is an island unto itself with financial, administrative, and personnel capability and expertise to deliver every mandated service to each individual student. Cross-regional cooperation can be an important factor here.
  - ii. Can we have local control? Jackie mentioned the possibility of homeschooling; someone else raised the point of a school cooperative.
  - iii. Another questioned if/how we might improve our school system to make it more attractive to families of neighboring communities who'd send their kids here and pay tuition?
  - iv. How is bullying addressed? School safety? Is there a reason to consider re-working the terms of the school board members?
  - v. Michelle asked if the school board should consider use of school building in evenings and off-school schedule: e.g. for adult outreach, early education, etc. Refer to 2010 plan. Is it an expensive asset that is under-utilized? This led to a conversation about the Infrastructure section of the draft Town Plan: should there be an inventory of town assets available for different

functions and an explanation of how to access them in a cost-effective manner? E.g. basketball in school gym? Adult education? VCRD. Art show... Who foots the bill?

- vi. Michelle said she wants us to continue to encourage interaction of school, historical society, the grange, the library, the one room school house.... make this more of a campus area!
  - c. The PC decided to send Andy's draft education section to the School Board as a point from which they can start, integrating it into their own larger context. We agreed that his draft expresses the Guilford "heart;" and it is also already formatted like the rest of the Town Plan draft.
2. Michelle: we need to be prepared to work on an ad hoc basis to get the draft to a more complete state. We will need to expect a lot of back and forth work going forward for the next 90 days by which our final draft must be submitted.
  3. Herb, Michelle, and Sheila reported on our meeting with John Bennett of WRC on 11/6 to review the draft to date. **Homework assignment - everyone should look at draft to identify where policies can be stated. Get edits to Sheila on or by 12/5.**

### **Communications**

1. Wastewater system in 2 wells (East Mt. Road conversion of camp to home) and a composting toilet waste water system on 30 acre lot for 3 cottages in Sweet Pond Village; expansion of Key-Got - amendments because of Act 250 issues related to concealment of Rt. 5 and 91 (an amendment to what was agreed on); lumber company in Halifax

### **Report on Actions from 10.15.14**

1. Michelle to contact Jeff Nugent about maps **WIP**
2. Michelle to set up meeting with John Bennett. **Meeting took place on 11/6; Herb, Michelle, and Sheila attended**
3. Andy and Michelle will work on identifying placement of charts and graphs throughout Town Plan. **WIP**
4. Planning Commissioners to develop questions for the School Board. **Process moving forward**
5. Michelle to continue work on rough draft of Natural and Historic Features. **nearly finished**
6. Michelle to contact Don McLean about using the historic sites map created for 250th. **TB done**

**Approval of Minutes of Meeting** approved

**Adjournment 8:42**

### **Reminders:**

Next regularly scheduled public meeting, Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm in the Town Office