

Town of Enfield Planning Board Work Session

OCTOBER 9, 2019, 7:00 pm

Members Present: David Fracht, Chairman, Erik Russell, Vice Chairman, Dan Kiley, Secretary, Phil Vermeer, Linda Jones, Kurt Gotthardt, Paula Stone-Recorder and Alternate

Staff Present: Rob Taylor- Land Use & Community Development Administrator, Ryan Aylesworth-Town Manager

Members Absent: Rita Seto, John Kluge,

Guests: Mr. Ed McLaughlin of the ZB, and Dr. Jerold Theis of the Cons Comm.

I. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Fracht at 7;03 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes for September 25, 2019. Dan Kiley made a motion to accept the minutes, with a second from Linda Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Hand-outs

Some pertinent documents were handed out in preparation for the discussions. These included a revised "Master Planning Process" paper that was presented at the previous PB meeting and a hand out from the Center for Strategic Governance describing a proposed path forward.

IV. Master Planning Work Session

Chairman Fracht has taken the task of coordinating with Rob Taylor-Administrator, the Master Plan Process.

Rob Taylor- summarized the most recent meeting with Mike Akillian last Friday. Taylor then provided handouts entitled Topics for the Enfield Master Planning Meeting which highlighted the 4 potential themes of a new Master Plan. Taylor expressed on the vast data available for this Plan. Ed McLaughlin, a guest in the audience, reiterated this Master theme that focused on the following three areas:

1. Public Plan
2. Chapters
3. Data

How do we define the character of Enfield?

Chairman Fracht asked the board their opinion of this potential theme. Ed McLaughlin exemplified a recent meeting he went to on the Town Assessments. Ed asked how we

get all of the information out to everyone who lives in Enfield. Chairman Fracht suggests a survey. Rob Taylor received a survey from those that are doing a master plan of 10 years for the State of NH Department of Transportation. He will send a copy of this remarkable survey format.

Erik Russell feels the focus be on the past, present and future. Jerold Theis felt a question should be how big do you want Enfield to get? Dr. Theis elaborated on the concept of open space.

The bullet theme 'how do we want Enfield to be known going forward, and to whom?' will be deleted as the Board felt the answer to this would culminate from other areas.

Should Enfield adopt one or more strategies? Linda Jones perused eco tourism, arts, recreation, business and economic growth. Erik suggested that this means more of what and how you want to market the town. Do the citizens want to put dollars behind promotion of the town. Jerold Theis said that this is a matter of what the people want to see in Enfield. The Board felt that this was a very good question to put out there.

How should we foster and preserve Enfield's strong sense of community? Should we focus on a mixed age community or a senior community? How do we make it happen? Linda Jones would like something about 'aging in place.' Rob Taylor told the Board of a plan in some communities where a retired nurse goes around the town and checks in on people. The nurse is paid and is part time.

How do we ensure Enfield's financial health and affordability for the long term?

The Board discussed this theme and does not want to include this with the Master Plan. Ed McLaughlin said the question should be changed. Ryan Aylesworth suggested the question should be what the citizens want to see for services from the municipality. The last three questions will remain. Chairman Fracht said the main question will be what the citizens want for a level of services for the municipality.

What is the right balance among residential living and business enterprise in Enfield? What role should business play?

Does the town offer incentives? yes, water and sewer lines. We are not taking advantage of Route 4. Kurt asked what kind of business do the citizens want. Ed said you focus on it and see what the need is. The town does not have a good mix of housing and what we allow people to do. Connect this with "Aging in Place," as previously mentioned. We need Day Care.

How Do We Manage Our Infrastructure?

The Town currently has a problem with internet service (Cable), WIFI. A number of towns have towers to aid in WiFi.

Public Health and Safety - where do we need to improve? A Public Safety Center is in the future.

- ❖ Keep in mind some grants want to see the infrastructure in the Master Plan. Ed McLaughlin said infrastructure is important. Though these are addressed by the department in mention, it still needs to be placed into the Master Plan.
- ❖ Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth informed that we need a consensus of the people incorporated into the Master Plan.

What level of service do the people want in Town, and what we need to meet these expectations, which undoubtedly includes financial commitments.

Our Land Use & Community Development Administrator - Rob Taylor and Chairman Fracht suggest a different Organizational Structure as illustrated in the hand-out from Mike Akillian. The Energy Commission, Conservation Commission, ZBA, Selectboard, Department Heads, Recreation, EVA, TIF will encircle the Planning Board, forming Chapters. Individuals from these boards and commissions could provide valuable input for the proper chapters to the Planning Board.

Ed McLaughlin would like to see a Master Planning Group in the center, and not the Planning Board. He felt that the final decisions should be done by a Master Planning Group. Chairman Fracht informed that the State says the Planning Board should be the one doing this. Ed McLaughlin continued and said that the Planning Board is not accountable to anyone as it is an appointed board, and that most towns the Planning Board members are elected. This puts the Planning Board in a bias position. Mr. McLaughlin is in favor of the Organizational Structure that has been provided by Mike Akillian, and not what the Planning Board wants to change it to. Rob Taylor corrected that the Planning Board does go back to the public before finality. The Planning Board revises constantly for the public. Town Manager Aylesworth reiterated that the Planning Board will have the Plan Adopted. Chairman Fracht asked Town Manager Aylesworth asked a Task Force would include the Planning Board. Town Manager Aylesworth said Planning Boards usually remove themselves of the task of the Master Plan as accountable.

Chairman Fracht continued with input connected to the center-planning board, illustrating themes, silo's-chapters, and the supporting data.

Chairman Fracht said that the Board will reach out to the people. A sub-committee may not satisfy our goal. Erik Russell felt that a sub-committee would be more beneficial. This would broaden our outreach and more credibility.

The Board decided to use the proposed organizational structure of Mike Akillian.

V. Communications

Two State of NH Drive Permits were received and offered for review.

VI. Next Meeting

October 23, 2019

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn came at 9:20 p.m. by Dan Kiley and seconded Linda Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

Applications are public record and are available at the Land Use and Community Development office for review.