

Richmond Planning Board Meeting
Town Hall
Minutes
December 9, 2019

Members present: Richard Bell, Douglas Bruce, John Hanson (Chairman), Katherine Keenum

Member absent: Peter Lopez

Others present: Mike Parsons of Kelly, Granger, Parsons (Great Barrington, Mass.), Bernice Dawson, Richmond resident; Thomas Dawson, Richmond resident

Mr. Hanson opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1. Ms. Dawson and Mr. Parsons presented a completed *Application for a Determination of Planning Board Jurisdiction and for Endorsement That Planning Board Approval under Subdivision Control Law Is Not Required (Form A)*, a check for \$50.00, and three copies of a plan to create an amended lot configuration at 1974 Swamp Road by incorporating contiguous landlocked property into Ms. Dawson's house lot. Mr. Bell moved that the application be accepted. Mr. Bruce seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.
2. Mr. Bell moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2019, as is. Mr. Bruce seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 4-0.
3. Mr. Hanson reported that Danielle Fillio, the Town Administrator, had transmitted the Planning Board's new website materials to the webmaster. He hoped to hear by the next Board meeting that they had had been posted.
4. Members discussed possibilities for updating or rewriting the town's Master Plan.

Mr. Hanson proposed four-layered structure that would move in stages:

- General vision in very general terms
- Strategy for how to make general topics a reality
- Action plan for assigning tasks to various committees and individuals
- Supporting data sets (e.g., census data), including replies to an opinion survey of townspeople's preferences for the town's future.

Mr. Bruce asked whether it made sense to go forward if the Board of Selectmen and Town Hall were cool to the idea. Mr. Hanson suggested monitoring, keeping in touch with other boards and Thomas Matuszko of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (who helped write the original Richmond master plan and now moderates the Long-Term Sustainability Working Group meetings), but not pushing anything yet. He said the process should not become a competition between boards.

Mr. Bell suggested that, as a first step, Mr. Hanson write up his proposal as a sort of "white paper" for the Planning Board to discuss further. A finalized version could then be sent to other boards and the Town Administrator.

Ms. Keenum repeated her objections to any attempt to update the master plan as a waste of time and asked not to be put on any subcommittees or working groups because only members who believed in the enterprise should participate. She noted that Pete Lopez had said he joined the Planning Board because he wanted to be active in the town's future. If he and Mr. Bruce saw things differently from herself, they could be effective in bringing new perspectives.

As an action item, Mr. Hanson agreed to write up a "white paper" proposal for presentation to the Board sometime in 2020 but probably not for the January meeting.

5. Mr. Hanson said that he would work further on composing a written procedure for posting public notices.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Keenum, Clerk