

**PLANNING COMMISSION
PRELIMINARY MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

September 15, 2009

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Phil Dunwoody, Vice Chairman Alan Couch Norman Vanasse
Terry Carter Christine Fuller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Fred Glover Steve Stengel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Doran Martin Nichols Ted Reeves
Jim Fuller Sandra Nichols Duncan Love – LPC TV
Rose Goings Jason Rasmussen

1. Call to Order

A. Phil Dunwoody, Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call by Recording Secretary

A. All members present except Fred Glover and Steve Stengel.

3. Re-nominate the Administrative Officer – Rose Goings

A. **MOTION by Christine Fuller and seconded by Terry Carter to re-nominate Rose Goings as Administrative Officer. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Re-nominate the Assistant Administrative Officer – Frank Heald

A. **MOTION by Christine Fuller and seconded by Norman Vanasse to re-nominate Frank Heald as Assistant Administrative Officer. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Approve Minutes

A. The minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of August 5, 2009.

B. **MOTION by Terry Carter and seconded by Alan Couch to accept the minutes from August 5, 2009 as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Comments from Citizens

A. Christine Fuller introduced Sandra and Martin Nichols, visitors from Australia, who both work on Planning in Sydney.

7. Town Plan Updating

A. Local Economy

- i. Jason Rasmussen advised that Fred Glover had asked him to get updated data for the local economy section of the town plan. Jason Rasmussen spoke to people at Okemo. He distributed sheets with charts reflecting some employment data from 2000, projections, categories of work and percentages, Unemployment data and Seasonal Variations in Meals & Room taxes for 2008, Traffic volumes for 2005, Okemo skier visits 1998-2009, major employers, Local Land Use Permit Activity 2000-2008 and Property Transfers 2000-2008.
- ii. Christine Fuller noted that there was not a big increase in unemployment in Ludlow. She also asked why Rio Tinto (Lucenac) was not included as a major employer.
- iii. Jason Rasmussen said he would get information on that.
- iv. Ted Reeves said that there is still an upward trend in Skier visits. There were about 600,000 visits this past season, down from the previous season. However, the previous season was a record year. Skier visits are weather and economy driven. Western areas suffered the most this past year, while ski areas in southern Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut did very well. All ski areas will have aggressive pricing packages for this coming year.
- v. Jason Rasmussen asked if employment data is available from Okemo.
- vi. Ted Reeves said he did not know, but someone could ask.
- vii. Jason Rasmussen noted that 45% of all property transfers, since 2000, have been in seasonal or vacation homes.
- viii. Norman Vanasse asked how long, after the census is taken, would it be before new data is available.
- ix. Jason Rasmussen said that short form information would probably take about 1 year, while long form information about 3 years (2013.)
- x. The board discussed best ways to proceed with this section. It was decided that a copy of the current town plan with revisions that have been made, would be sent to Jason Rasmussen. Jason Rasmussen will make revisions and email back to board members by October 6th. If any board members have comments to make to Jason Rasmussen, they should email them to him by October 1st. Jason Rasmussen will get population data from Ulla Cook.

B. Natural Resources

- i. Board went through the comments provided by April Harkness and compared them to what is in the current town plan. Terry Carter, who is maintaining the digital files, made the changes on the draft. They went through Forest, Agricultural and began Water Resources. Jason Rasmussen will complete the merging of April's comments into the draft and make suggested changes. He will have this for the next meeting.

8. **Other Business**

- A. Next Meeting will be held on October 13, 2009. Lisha Klaiber to notify Rose Goings, as this will be a special meeting. No regular meeting will be scheduled for October 20th.

9. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Christine Fuller and seconded by Norman Vanasse to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber