Members Present: Thad Presby, Eric Meth, Monica Laflamme, and Mary Grote

Others Present: Dawn Steele, Peter Grote, and Larry Plate

A regular meeting of the Franconia Planning Board was held at the Franconia Town Hall on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Thad Presby

**Approval of Minutes –** Thad made a motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021, as written, second by Eric. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Informal Discussion – Poultry Ordinance –** Dawn stated the poultry ordinance was revised and has been reviewed by the Select Board. There was feedback that the revisions should be effective in all districts. Another recommendation is the ordinance would address only chickens and that ducks would be placed under special exceptions with other poultry and would have to be approved by the ZBA and the Board of Selectmen.

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the number of chickens versus the number of acres, setbacks for enclosures and manure, and what constitutes personal use. Dawn stated the chickens and ducks have caused problems in certain areas, but we don’t want to say you can’t have any. We need to find a balance and a compromise that doesn’t create a nuisance. We need to start somewhere and find something that is reasonable to the average person.

Thad suggested doing a sliding scale for the number of chickens—four chickens per acre which would be 20 chickens for five acres which is close to the 18. The more difficult task will be the setback especially for someone who has two or three acres because 150’ might mean you have the enclosure in the middle of the property depending on the size and shape of the lot.

Thad suggested making a chart with one column for the acreage, another for number of chickens, and a third for the required setback. So, one acre, five chickens, 30 feet; two acres, 10 chickens, 60 feet; three acres, 15 chickens, 100 feet; 4 acres, 20 chickens, 125 feet; 5 acres, 25 chickens, 150 feet. Those may not be the right numbers but it would eliminate people having to come for a variance. You still have to keep them on your property, you have to get rid of the manure and it can’t be smelly, but that gives people some flexibility to do their thing without coming to get a special exception. We might also want to address properties under one acre and keep the same 30-foot setback if they want to have two chickens. Dawn suggested it also be stated that lots under an acre cannot have a rooster.

The Board discussed whether ducks should be by special exception. Thad was concerned if someone has a working farm and wanted to get ducks they would need to go through the expense and paperwork of applying to the ZBA for a special exception. Dawn stated she feels the ducks should need to come in for a hearing because of the noise. The Board was in agreement that anything over five acres would be exempt from this ordinance which would eliminate putting an unnecessary burden on any current farming operations.

**Sign Ordinance -** The Board reviewed the Sign Ordinance. Thad noted under paragraph B1, right-of-way should be corrected to rights-of-way. It was also noted under paragraph B2, the comma after June 1st should be removed. The updated ordinance will be presented at the public hearing on November 1st.

**Solar Ordinance –** The Board reviewed the draft Solar Ordinance. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to the following changes:

Page 1 – remove the first sentence under Principal or Secondary Use which states, “Solar collection systems may be considered either principal or secondary uses.” There was no definition listed for principal or secondary use and if they are the same then there is no reason to put it in.

Page 2 – remove minimum lot size and road frontage from the chart. Remove the special exception from the roof mount and residential solar on the chart. Add that commercial/large commercial and community solar are by special exception only.

Page 4 – under #6, Glare – change the word “calculated” to “reviewed”.

The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:00pm at the Franconia Town Hall.

After a motion and a second, the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wills