

# FRANCONIA PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## May 26, 2015

### **Members Present:**

Mary Grote, Thad Presby, Dick Reinhold, Lydia Cumbee, Brian Williams, Eric Meth, Keith Batchelder

### **Others Present:**

Gordie Johnk, Toni Butterfield

A regular meeting of the Franconia Planning Board was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at the Franconia Town Hall. Thad Presby called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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### **Lafayette Regional School – Informal Discussion**

Gordie Johnk came before the board for an informal discussion in regards to a possible site plan review because the silo and the energy box were to be moved from the original position.

After discussing the possibilities of having to do a site plan review Thad made the motion to that the Lafayette Regional School did not need a site plan review. Lydia seconded the motion and all members voted unanimously in favor.

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### **Letter from DOT Lafayette Brook Bridge**

This letter got caught in the shuffle of the office being switched around for the new Tax Clerk. The meeting was scheduled for 4/29/15. Eric Meth attended this meeting. He said that there were three alternatives and he chose the least expensive...Harriet was concerned about it taking away from the aesthetics. It is a ready-made bridge and it is mandated to have the metal railings on the abutments. This work should be done by 2023.

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### **Master Plan**

Lydia cannot get answers from Carol in regards to RSA in regards to sending our letter with the tax bill. Carol said that she had to speak with the Secretary of State in regards to this. Members would like Herbie to try and assist Carol with this endeavor. The work on the Master Plan has to start with the letter. Herbie can get the number from Carol and call the Secretary of state in regards to this. We know that Carol is very busy getting the office the way she needs it and getting caught up with the day to day tasks.

Dick Reinhold spoke about Burke Mountain over in VT...this is what Franconia could be. Quaint, natural aspects could draw people to the area by using our natural resources. We should invite Kim Cowles, Bob Low, & Chris Nicodemus in regards to mountain bike trails. There is no signage over at the Fox Hill area. The Franstead Campground no longer wants people to cross thru their campground area. We should do brochures and list on the internet. Burke has a \$44/day for family and \$150/season.

We could install a pay as you go issuing a sticker for their bikes. An honor system could be put in place charging \$7.00 to get a sticker. Herbie will remind Thad to contact Bob Low. We may be able to do a tax abatement for those land owners who allow people to use their land for a bike path similar to what the snowmobilers do.

Keith Batchelder reported on his take of the conference. He said that the population growth is no longer happening. NH is the second oldest state and is only growing slowly. We may want to think about consolidating resources like having only one administration building for several towns. They can keep their other departments. Also he had asked about high speed internet.

There is a tri-town summit on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Maybe form a committee for sharing resources. We received an email from Jennifer Gaudette the Sugar Hill Administrative Assistant in regards to going to NHMA training for Planning & Zoning Boards. The fee for the class is \$475 all towns attending could split that cost. Everyone on the Franconia Planning Board would like to attend. Herbie will pass it by the Zoning Board Members as well at the meeting Thursday night. Herbie will email Jennifer in regards to Franconia members attending.

Dick Reinhold brought up a comment in regards to Fire Ponds. There is no tax relief for people who have the ponds. This would be another thing to consider.

Dick Reinhold also mentioned that we should review tax maps so that any discrepancies that we continue to run into may be attended to. We should be proactive in our own due diligence. He mentions this because we are coming up for re-appraisals. He also thought that reviewing the deeds to make sure that they match the maps. Lydia, Mary & Keith said that it is not our job. April 1<sup>st</sup> is our window of opportunity which determines the value of property. The members wanted to know how many sales there were in Franconia. Dick thinks maybe 10-15 sales happened.

Liens are being worked on per Eric. Eric is continuing what John LaChappelle started. Carol knows her job and our attorney Laura is on top of it. They are working on liens for 2011. The lecturers at the workshop Eric attended will also help. Eric & Carol should have a conference call.

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**Miscellaneous** – Herbie will draft up a new member roster for everyone and will email or give hard copy at the next meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dick Reinhold told us about his daughter's website for the town of Greensboro, VT. Herbie will share the link with everyone in an email.

The sign is up on the Franconia Public Safety building.

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After a motion by Lydia and a second by Dick, the minutes of the May 11th meeting were approved unanimously as written. Keith Batchelder abstained because he was absent from this meeting.

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The Planning Board meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbie Bartlett  
Planning Board Secretary