

Montague Planning Board

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September 26, 2017 7:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room

One Avenue A

Turners Falls, MA 01376

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Ron Sicard – Chair, Fred Bowman, George Cooke, Bruce Young and Elizabeth Irving

Members Absent: Bob Obear

Staff Present: Walter Ramsey, AICP- Town Planner, David Jensen – Building Inspector

Ron Sicard opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

The Chairman welcomed new Associate Member Elizabeth Irving. Elizabeth lives in Montague Center and is excited to be a part of the Board. The Associate member position is an annual appointment. The associate does not vote except in instances where there is not enough members to make quorum.

Approval of Minutes:

- *George Cooke made a motion to accept the July 25, 2017 minutes. Seconded by Bruce Young, motion approved unanimously.*
- *Fred Bowman made a motion to accept the August 22, 2017 minutes. Seconded by Bruce Young, motion approved unanimously.*

Review Draft Complete Streets Policy –

The Planning Board reviewed a draft of the Complete Streets Policy prepared by staff. Such a policy is a requirement of the State’s Complete Street Program that provides funding for implementation.

The purpose for this is to develop transportation systems that provide safety and accessibility to all of its users. This includes pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, horseback riders, motorists, emergency, commercial vehicles, and any other forms of transportation. This contributes towards the general health, safety, economy, and overall quality of life within a community by improving pedestrian and vehicular connectivity as well as accessibility for users of all ages and abilities. Walter noted that Town already does this-and has done do for over decade. Walter has reviewed the policy with the Highway Superintendent who supports the policy.

The Planning Board read through the policy and decided to take some time to digest it at home. The Chairman asked to place this on the October agenda for a vote.

Zoning Workshop – Review draft use and dimensional tables and zoning map updates

Guest: David Jensen, Building Inspector

The group went line by line through the draft use table from Hotel/Inn to the end. The board wishes to:

- Redefine “non-profit club or lodge”
- Fix ground mounted accessory solar units in AF
- Limit the areas where a self-storage facility can be located
- Treat motor vehicle sales, restaurants, banks as a “retail sales and service” use

- Drive-thru' s by special permit
- Campgrounds by special permit in AF
- Don't regulate loading docks through use table

Planner will address these comments and provide an updated draft use table for the October meeting.

Planner's Report:

- **Set hearing date for Recreational Marijuana Moratorium Petition**
The Board will do a review of the moratorium at the October meeting and a hearing will be scheduled for November 28.
- **Preparations for Special Town Meeting October 5, 2017**
The Board asked the Planner to deliver the Planning Board Report to Town Meeting for the St. Andrews Church rezoning and the Millers Falls Road rezoning petitions.

*Fred Bowman made a **motion** at 9:06 PM to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by George Cooke. **Motion passed.***

Approved by: _____ Date: _____