

Dalton Planning Board

Minutes of 10/5/22

On Zoom: Steve Ordinetz

In Person: Gal Potashnick, Jo Beth Dudley, Carl Lindquist, Terri Parks, Eric Nilsen

- Meeting Called to order 7:23pm
- Carl apologized for starting the meeting late-just before starting the meeting realized he'd forgotten a set of plans for the Trudeaus, coming before the board tonight for subdivision approval. Had to run home to get them. Gal notified those on Zoom of what was happening.
- Reviewed/approved previous minutes.
- Carl stated that the Zoom would be open for folks to see/hear the meeting remotely but that he would not be responding to chat during the meeting or engaging in back and forth discussions over Zoom.
- Noted that an email had been received from Jim Dannis and that it would be reviewed later tonight
- Steve Heyliger appeared with Martha Trudeau on the Trudeau subdivision. Previously discussed at last months planning board meeting.
 - Registered letters had been sent to abutters, none present at the meeting to speak and a few commented their support for the subdivision.
 - No issues seen with the basic subdivision concept and details.
 - Only concern identified by the planning board were missing setback lines on the maps. After discussion a motion was made and approved for the board to accept the subdivision application, contingent on the maps being updated to add setback lines. Carl to sign the maps once that update is completed.
- Ernie Hanaford appeared requesting a letter from the planning board to help with his plan to replace an existing mobile home with a new one. Even though the town has no zoning the installation company is requesting a letter from the planning board. Carl to write a document stating that the town has no zoning or other requirement related to this activity but of course state and federal requirements must still be met.
- Nancy Comeau spoke on behalf of the Dalton Conservation Committee, asking (in response to a request from Kaela/North Country Council) what feedback would be most useful. Kaela was present and said she would attend the next Conservation Committee meeting and coordinate with Nancy.
- Kaela/North Country Council-Master Plan Review (Transportation)

- Kaela talked with Bob Wentworth, road agent, to get feedback on Dalton roads and any known issues around them.
- Bob said many narrow roads, also many with undefined rights of way (ROW). Sight line issues, stormwater management issues. Sometimes not sure how much room he has to work with to mitigate those issues.
- Terri has a road map that summarizes many road widths in town from her research into historical town documents. Can share that with town highway dept.
- Does Dalton Hwy Dept have a formal road inventory? Names, widths, etc.
- Might be a good idea to have a volunteer section on town website. Projects like Terri's road map history?
- Bob says two places on Faraway are ongoing trouble spots, need work every year but they seem to be able to keep it in decent shape.
- Town culverts are in fair condition. Galvanized being replaced with plastic as appropriate, sizing seems to be OK. Several replaced each year.
- Highway dept equipment is in fair shape, no complaints. Town has capital funds for various equipment that get funded at town meeting and that seems to keep up OK.
- Highway dept budget is "Enough, but barely". Bob has his own methodology around equipment and activities. Maybe no written work instructions, though.
- North Country Council (NCC) will work on a better update/road overlay of Strava app data.
- Revisited "Rails Until Trails" project discussed at prior board meeting.
- Outreach comments: road maintenance needs, particularly dirt roads and some parts of 135/142 also need improvement
- Increasing bike usage may be focused simply on signage "Park here", "XX bike route starts here", etc
- Crash data (from DOT) not very conclusive but maybe there are near miss areas?
- No town roads are in the river floodplain, good news.
- Discussion around sidewalks, pros and cons. Who maintains? Would it increase walking activity around downtown?
- Transportation Alternative Plan (TAP) is a DOT program focused on cyclists and pedestrians.
- Transportation Advisory Committee(TAC) is in the DOT. Contracts with regional planning commission like NCC (Nick is the NCC contact person) to understand projects that communities need. TAC scores/ranks projects and then recommends.
- Should the town encourage ride share locations? Advertise Tri-County CAP on town website?
- North Country Scenic Byway Committee-made up mostly of residents in Coos, some support from NCC.
- Could certainly be a tie in between Master Plan (ie "town residents could become more involved in certain committees or activities that help support the interests of the town, here are list of possibilities...") and a volunteer section of the town website
- Discussion around some of the turnouts on Rte 135. Trash left there, potential illicit activity. Who owns the turnouts? Are they actively used by town, DOT, school buses, etc? If not, could they be closed off? Kaela will ask State District 1 DOT

- Master plan discussion agenda for tonight was sent to planning board a couple days ago and then posted yesterday on website. Discussion and agreement from Kaela that it would be provided 1wk ahead in future so residents can understand when certain sections are being discussed and decide if they want to attend or not.
- Discussion around Zoom portion of planning board meetings
 - Carl checked with NH Municipal and was told there is no requirement to continue Zoom for public. Also OK to have Zoom as an option for board members and not for public.
 - Discussion amongst board members about how to proceed.
 - Conclusion was to keep Zoom as a remote see/hear option for town residents but not to have any regular interaction with the chat or back and forth dialog with Zoom attendees.
- Discussion of Jim Dannis comments regarding the survey that was done by NCC. In his opinion the survey results are meaningless and the survey should be redone.
 - Kaela commented that there is no required methodology so each town or organization is free to do a survey in any way that they choose.
 - Kaela has 12yrs experience in this work and created the survey using current practices she is aware of around this type of activity in NH. In light of recent comments by Jim Dannis she reached out to peers in her industry and found they were doing surveys today in the same way she did the Dalton survey.
 - Several NH towns have active open surveys today, no safety or controls on who can participate. General consensus amongst Kaela's peers was "cast a wide net, hear from as many people as possible".
 - Master Plan survey was never intended to be a proxy for pro/con on zoning. Was not written or discussed with that intention.
 - Discussion amongst board of whether there was merit to scrap the survey and do it again. Given the feedback received from the survey and Kaela's comments above it was decided there was no need to do another survey.

Meeting adjourned 9:59pm

Next meeting 11/2/22 7pm