

NORFOLK PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Special Meeting

March 20, 2008
Town Hall - 7:00pm

Minutes

Present: Bill Riiska - Vice Chairman, Liane Burke, Ruthann Olsson, Bill Couch
(alternate), Betsy Kittredge (alternate), Michele Sloane
Absent: West Lowe, Star Childs, Jeff Tarrant
Alternate Representation: Betsy Kittredge for West Lowe

1. Town Plan of Conservation and Development
Infrastructure

Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics moderated public meeting re: Infrastructure, reviewing current facilities and anticipated uses and capabilities.

Colin Tait noted need for outdoor covered pavilion with sufficient parking area to host community events; need for senior and/or community center (including kitchen facilities).

Discussion re: use of town property at Maple/Emerson (adjacent to Town Hall); need to reserve for future expansion of Town Hall. First Selectman Sue Dyer noted that current Town Hall is sufficient for present purposes, room in basement for additional office space if needed but parking at Town Hall is limited. Suggestion for multi-purpose building to be constructed for use of town and community purposes with additional parking.

Dept. of Public Works working on bringing water and sewer to town garage, need to expand equipment, truck and material storage; need to consider potential expansion. Discussion re: potential use of Landfill site; need assessment of 140 acre town owned parcel for possible uses.

First Selectman noted that due to original substandard construction of roads, maintenance and improvements are limited due to substantial costs involved. Sue Dyer explained that the road system requires continual oil and gravel resurfacing due to poor initial subsurfaces but proper drainage needs to first be addressed; need to better clear shaded areas of roads to minimize ice. Need for better sidewalk pedestrian circulation, bicycle trails. Colin Tait noted Norfolk Land Trust 's continuing development of old railway trails for walking and biking.

Kate Johnson noted current uses of Botelle School include community services as well as emergency shelter; problem with declining enrollment from 300 to 160 students, less decline than other neighboring towns but nonetheless, significant. If future needs warrant, expansion could be made in covered "skating area" for additional classroom space; property considered sufficient for current and future purposes; need

for sidewalks to school, playing fields and playground. Repair of two tennis courts and equipment storage shed needed.

Josh Decerbo noted need to address storm water run-off and drainage in order to repair tennis courts, costs estimated at \$48,000 - \$63,000 for repair or reconstruction. Baseball fields at Mountain Rd. (owned by Battell-Stoeckel Estate) used for town sports are upgraded as costs allow; need for P&Z Minutes 3/20/08 P. 2

refreshment and equipment storage areas.

Reviewed Tobey Pond beach facilities, costs, etc. Norfolk Library noted as well supported, provides excellent community services.

Richard Byrne noted need for new or expanded firehouse to house new truck and equipment and increase meeting space for training. Noted need to consider more energy efficient and lower maintenance costs for municipal projects. Daytime service currently depends upon mutual aid. Noted that Ambulance Emergency services are funded by Norfolk Lions Club.

Sue Dyer noted that Resident Trooper is contracted through 2010 with 70% (\$93,000) of the cost from town budget which would be higher with an alternate local program; successful DARE program; need for increased presence and visibility in town, parking/speeding enforcement.

Sue Dyer noted that while there is no Agent for the Elderly, Selectman's Office provides services to the elderly.

Richard Byrne reviewed status of cemeteries; Pond Hill is at capacity, South Norfolk Cemetery and Center Cemetery (private) are available at this time.

It was noted that road specifications should reflect proper widths for newer, larger emergency vehicles; need to adopt standards for better residential firefighting access (i.e. road setbacks, mandatory water tanks and/or hydrant system). Rural subdivision regulations should consider requiring dry hydrants or fee in lieu of to fund supplemental water tanks.

Public transportation currently provided by Northwest Transit van for senior or handicapped transportation, funded by state grant. Information available through Selectman's Office, more drivers needed, better utilization.

Ron Zanobi noted that sewer district currently serves about 50% of town's population with 375 hookups; need to address aging system originally built in 1897. Higher cost to users due to limited number of hookups; capable of accommodating more. Roland Denny noted that NSD is currently considering the process of relining pipes as alternative to digging up and replacing old pipes.

It was noted that high speed internet and cellular service is very limited or non-existent in rural areas of

town; limits capabilities of businesses.

It was also noted that alternative renewable fuel sources (hydro-electric, solar and wind) should be further investigated.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Sloane

Secretary