

PLANNING BOARD

DATE: February 12, 2015  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Large Meeting Room  
FOR: Regular Meeting  
PRESENT: Jonathan Hankin, Chairman; Suzanne Fowle; Malcolm Fick  
Jeremy Higa, Associate Member  
Chris Rembold, Town Planner

Mr. Hankin called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**FORM A's:**

There were no Form A's presented.

**MINUTES: JANUARY 22, 2015**

Mr. Fick made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2015 as amended, Ms. Fowle seconded, all in favor.

**SPECIAL PERMIT: 80 CASTLE STREET**

Mr. Rembold said neither the applicant, Nicole Wilson, nor her builder was able to attend the meeting. The application is for the alteration of a pre-existing non-conforming structure. The house at 80 Castle Street pre-dates zoning. The structure is on the side lot line. There is a deck in the back that is also too close to the side lot line to conform. The applicant wants to replace the deck with a screened porch on the same footprint.

Mr. Hankin said the non-conformity is not being extended.

Mr. Rembold agreed the proposed alteration would not extend the non-conformity.

Ms. Fowle made a motion to send a positive recommendation to the ZBA with the suggestion that a more up to date and detailed drawing should be submitted to the ZBA to make the request easier to understand, Mr. Fick seconded, all in favor.

**TOWN PLANNER REPORT;**

Mr. Rembold said the first publication of the public hearing for the zoning articles was in today's paper. The zoning articles were sent to Town Counsel for review.

Mr. Rembold said he will undertake a variety of outreach to discuss the proposed zoning, including WSBS radio on February 26 in the morning as well as The Record's show on CTSB.

Mr. Rembold said Mass DOT is replacing the Park Street bridge in Housatonic next year. A public hearing will be held on March 10 to present design plans. The key question is should the bridge be shut down to do the work or keep one lane open. Keeping one lane open will extend the construction period.

Mr. Rembold said the budget season has begun. The Town budget projects a slight decrease in the tax rate. Proposed budgets are on the Town website.

Mr. Hankin noted that the school budget projects approximately a 5.6% increase.

TOWN CLERK  
GREAT BARRINGTON  
MAR 12 2015 AM 7:08

Mr. Rembold said tomorrow he will submit a CDGB grant application for drainage on Front Street in front of Monument Mills and the continued Housing Rehabilitation Program. The application will be submitted with BRPC. The amount of the grant is \$874,000.

Mr. Rembold said the Town was successful in getting a small portion of land at the Lake Mansfield boat ramp. The owner donated the land. This means the Town can move forward with plans to improve the boat launch.

**OTHER ISSUES & CONCERNS & COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Mr. Fick said the Historical Commission will meet on March 2 to declare Searles High School as a historical building. Vijay Mahida is interested in developing the former school into a hotel. In order to exceed the room limit the building would need a historical designation. He said that no application has been submitted for the project.

Ms. Fowle said that the applications for the CPC must be passed at the Annual Town Meeting. They may be submitted as a single warrant article. She asked if the Planning Board would be interested to hear more about the chosen applications prior to the Town Meeting.

The Board said they would like to hear more. Ms. Fowle will bring a presentation to the next meeting.

Without objection, Mr. Hankin adjourned the meeting at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kimberly L. Shaw  
Planning Board Secretary