

JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION AND SELECT BOARD AS WARNED

OCTOBER 17th, 2016

Present: Select Board Chair Michael Klopchin, Administrative Assistant Heather Kent, Planning Commission: Carol Geery, Gale LiCausi, Bryan Johnson, Heidi Eccleston, and John McKenna (arrived at 6:41pm). Ethan Swift (Watershed Coordinator), Barbara Noyes-Pulling (RRPC), Mike Pedone, and Marjorie Southard.

Call to Order: 6:40 p.m.

A quorum of the Select Board was not present.

The Workshop began with a review of the Flood Hazard Mitigation actions the Town has taken and adopted, which included the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Local Emergency Operations Plan, the National Flood Insurance Program, and the Road and Bridge Standards; the Town has not adopted the River Corridor Plan. A lengthy discussion followed on the benefits for the Town if the River Corridor Plan was adopted, which included more funding for the Town, and what the adoption process would look like. Ethan Swift informed the Planning Commission that the State has a template for the plan that could be utilized, and that it could stand alone as a plan, or be included in Zoning.

Select Board Chair Klopchin asked the Administrative Assistant to update those present on the progress of the grant application for the Cold River Flood Plain Restoration, an update was given.

The Planning Commission Chair raised questions as to the other rivers in Town, and a brief discussion followed, which included river maintenance. The reasons behind developing the River Corridor Plan was discussed, which included the "meander belt width" of a river, and the drawbacks to having infrastructure in a flood plan.

The Select Board Chair questioned the possible impact to farmers, this was discussed, with Ethan Swift stating that the plan would not prevent anyone already established from farming. Marjorie Southard commented on the importance of wetlands, and questioned the river corridor plan's impact on wetlands; Ethan Swift stated that the plan was developed only for larger systems. This led to another discussion on the varying rivers in the Town; it was agreed that the Cold River was the most volatile.

Rail Roads in Town were discussed, their impact on the flood plain, and whether or not the River Corridor would affect them, and if they would have to follow any new rules. The Board Chair stated that the railroads should be responsible for their sections of rail, and reiterated that farmers should be protected.

The Clean Water initiative was discussed, and its connections to the Municipal Roads General Permit. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was briefly touched on. Michael Pedone asked about a waste water system in Clarendon, and it was discussed, as well as studies done on the issue in the past.

The Planning Commission Chair stated that the Select Board should decide if the Town needed the River Corridor plan, and meeting with the Select Board, Planning Commission, and Ethan Swift was tentatively scheduled for November 28th.

The Planning Commission Clerk asked if the rivers should be done at once, or one at a time, Ethan Swift responded that it varies between towns, but starting small was acceptable. There was a discussion on the process, and that it could be done the same as an overlay district. The Select Board Chair stated that the Select Board had agreed that all major zoning should go before the voters, and that this plan should also go before the voters.

The Planning Commission Clerk questioned the width of the river corridors, Ethan Swift responded that they are six times the width of the river that they encase. The Select Board Chair voiced his concerns for houses already established in a potential river corridor.

At 7:44, the workshop was adjourned. There were no motions made or votes taken.

These minutes taken and respectfully submitted to the Planning Commission by Administrative Assistant, Heather Kent.