

# Town of Randolph

Planning Board Minutes

August 1, 2019

**Members Present:** Roberta Arbree, John Scarinza, John Turner, Robert Ross, and Tim Mather

**Members Excused:** None

**Public:** Edith Tucker, James Hunt, Ann Forsyth, Jen Barton-Scarinza, and others

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by John Scarinza.

## PUBLIC HEARING

John Scarinza opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 pm for comments regarding the Master Plan for the Town of Randolph. Scarinza advised those in attendance that the document still needs to be edited and any grammatical errors will be corrected. Scarinza advised that it is the Planning Board's role to update the Master Plan, which is usually done in 10-year increments. As part of the process, the Board used documents, studies done by the Conservation Commission, and ideas and suggestions obtained at the public meeting attended last year by residents. Scarinza stated that there are people who wish to submit written comments that were not able to attend the meeting and suggested that the period to accept them be extended to September 5, 2019.

**On a motion by John Turner, seconded by Robert Ross, the Board voted unanimously to extend the period to accept written comments on the Master Plan until September 5, 2019.**

A question was asked about the Israel River, and if this should be Israel's River. Edith Tucker advised it did used to be Israel's, but was shortened by the state on signs. The Board will look into this to be sure the correct name is used.

Edith Tucker stated that the Master Plan should contain enough specificity that it becomes in itself a historical document. Tucker suggested that the names of those who created the trails be included, along with those who started the RMC and Ravine House. Scarinza requested that Tucker email this list to him. Tucker also suggested that it read to support local, and regional, economy. Tucker pointed out that Route 2 was supposed to be a scenic highway, which is why those in the valley did not want the road located there, not only due to not wanting development that comes with the road. Tucker suggested adding the name of the neighboring town, Jefferson, on page 5, and the owner of the land in the next paragraph. On page 6, Tucker suggested that the recent purchase of 200 acres from Gorham be added to the information about the Randolph Community Forest.

On page 6, James Hunt asked which trailhead paragraph two was referring to, and John Scarinza advised it was the one on Randolph Hill Road. This should be added to clarify. Ann Forsyth requested that “if it is needed” be removed on page 7. A question was asked about short-term rentals mentioned on page 8, and John Scarinza advised that although this has been a problem in other towns in the state, it has not been an issue in Randolph. It was requested that a chart be included showing the type of land use, the total acreage for each type, and percentage of the town that it represents.

On page 9, Edith Tucker requested that it be added that at this time, Federal Funds were available for trailhead protection in the WMNF. Tucker suggested that this is something the town may also want to pursue again in the future. On page 10, the second paragraph should end with “publicly noticed” hearings. It was suggested that the items on page 11 in the list be included as bullets to make it easier to read. James Hunt asked about promoting animal and plant diversity and John Scarinza advised that since the town forest is mainly maple trees, this was accomplished with small cuts to encourage other species of trees, such as white birch and yellow birch to grow. Jen Barton-Scarinza suggested that the Board add “through habitat management” to that item. Removing invasive plants was also mentioned, and it was decided this should be part of Consideration for Future Land Use.

Edith Tucker requested that former Senator Judd Gregg be given credit for the language on page 12. It was suggested that the information about the Gorham Town Forest on page 12 be added to the prior mention of it on page 6. James Hunt asked why Coldbrook Falls was the only park permanently protected and was advised that this the only one in which development has been prohibited in writing. It was mentioned that Cold Brook was originally two words, not one.

James Hunt suggested that easements and current use be defined on page 13. Edith Tucker suggested that the development of the pipeline being a presidential proclamation should be included. Ann Forsyth suggested that the Randolph Library be included with the town offices as a part of the town center. Edith Tucker requested that “peaceful and danger free” be removed on page 15, and it was suggested this be replaced with “welcoming”. Forsyth questioned the tax-exempt properties on page 15, and it was clarified that The Randolph Foundation does own property in town. Jen Barton-Scarinza suggested that glade skiing be included in Recreation, and Tucker suggested that the USFS be included as helping to maintain the trails.

On page 16, Edith Tucker requested that “summer” and “hordes” be removed, and that “willingly share” be changed to “enjoy sharing”. Tucker would like “near wilderness experience” to be included in this section, as she believes this is what visitors are looking for. It was requested that the paragraph on the Friends of the Presidential Rail Trail also include those from further away, as many members are not from the local area. A discussion ensued on the proposed Cross NH bike trail and eco-cycling vs. cycling. It was suggested that a hearing be held on the use of the rail trail, as there are differing visions for its use. Ann Forsyth requested that the first paragraph in Considerations for Future Land Use be reworded as to east and west of Route 2. Edith Tucker suggested that a letter be sent to Eversource as to their plan for the poles

that are being replaced. James Hunt commended the Board for including the other residents, including moose, deer, and beaver, in the list on page 17. Edith Tucker suggested that AVRDD and Northpac be included as examples of regional cooperation and planning.

The issue of parking at Appalachia was discussed, along with the concern of there being no bathrooms available there. Edith Tucker also asked about rebuilding Durand Road and if setbacks and buffer zones mentioned in the Plan will affect this. John Turner advised that the road is an existing structure and will be in the same place. However, they will certainly be cognizant of the Moose River. Tucker also suggested that the placement of free-standing solar panels be included, as these could affect someone's view. A question was asked about businesses coming to town and if there is a concern about the nature of the business as well as concerns like parking lots. John Scarinza advised that a list of businesses encouraged in town is included in the Zoning Ordinances.

It was noted that on page 21, it should say "Randolph" instead of "Gorham" in the paragraph under number 7. Edith Tucker suggested that Patrick Henry be removed on page 22. Ann Forsyth requested that the Randolph Church be added to the common gathering places and community institutions, along with the Randolph Public Library.

The public hearing was not closed, as comments will continue to be accepted in writing until September 5, 2019.

**Minutes of July 18, 2019** – On a motion from John Turner with a second from Roberta Arbree, members voted to accept the minutes as presented.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm. .

**Adjournment: On a motion by John Turner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli A. Fortin  
August 2, 2019