

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TAMWORTH MASTER PLAN DRAFT

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Brett School, Tamworth, New Hampshire

Tamworth Planning Board Chairman, Dom Bergen began the hearing promptly at 7:30 p.m. Other Planning Board members and alternates present were Scott Aspinall, Rebecca Boyden, Tom Cleveland, Herb Cooper, Pat Farley, Willie Farnum, Steve Gray, Tom Peters, and Nicole Maher- Whiteside.

Tamworth Master Plan Committee members present were Tom Peters: Chairman, Ann Albrecht, Tom Cleveland, Sue Colten, Pat Farley, Willie Farnum, John Gotjen, Steve Gray, David Little, John Mersfelder, and Ruth Timchak.

Thirty-nine people, counting everybody present, attended the hearing.

Dom Bergen told the public that the hearing would consist of two parts: a power point presentation by Master Plan Committee Chairman, Tom Peters, and comments from the public. The comments could either be oral, before the assembled group, or could be in writing. The last page of the handout has a page prepared for written public comment which should go to Melissa Donaldson, Recording Secretary of the Tamworth Planning Board.

Dom also told the public that it is the responsibility of the Tamworth Planning Board to either accept or not accept the Tamworth Master Plan as written. The date for the next Planning Board meeting is Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Tamworth Town Offices. Since the Planning Board also has other business, the Tamworth Master Plan discussion is scheduled for about 8:00 p.m.

Power Point Presentation

Tamworth Master Plan Chairman, Tom Peters, then gave a power point overview called "Tamworth Master Plan," giving the who, what, when, why, and how of the process.

Public Comments

Katy Thompson began the public comment session by thanking Chairman Peters and the members of the Tamworth Master Plan Committee for their hard work in putting the Master Plan draft together.

Paul King stated that the numbers given for altered land subdivisions mean only one more lot after a subdivision, not two lots. The number of subdivided lots should be corrected as well as the tally for merged lots.

John Wheeler spent several hours reading the Master Plan and had a number of corrections, an overview of which will appear below.

1. In Chapter 6, Community Facilities, the Master Plan should list the current and authorized staff of the Tamworth Police Department. It should not be the March 2006 list.
2. In Chapter 6, Community Facilities, it should be clear that the Board of Selectmen has no authority over the schools.
3. In Chapter 6, Community Facilities, Chocorua Public Library should be listed as a privately funded library.

In Chapter 10, The correct hours for Chocorua Public Library are:  
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday, 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., and  
Thursday, 1:00 p.m. -  
7:00 p.m.

4. On page 18, cemeteries, the word should be "rest" not "best."
5. On page 19, the term of office for the Supervisors of the Checklist is six years, not three.
6. In Chapter 7, Economic Development, it should read "and private" not "ad private."
7. In Chapter 8, the final implementation of the comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act was published July 1, 1994. However, that document was revised in 2007 or 2008. That information should be updated.
8. In Chapter 8:12, the Master Plan is described as 1979 and 1980. The year should be clarified.
9. Under Utilities, Pine Tree Power does not pay local school taxes. It pays state school taxes. The exact amount of the taxes should be corrected.
10. In Chapter 12, community organizations look like a duplication of Chapter, 10.8.
11. In Chapter 14.6, multifamily development should have a better title. Perhaps the percentage of new home permits should be added to the title.
12. Tamworth is misspelled in the table for Level D.

Katy Thompson mentioned that on the map that showed undeveloped land, she could not tell whether the green or the white color was for the undeveloped land.

Katy also mentioned that there were several misspelled words at the end of the document. She will look through again to pinpoint where they are.

Diana Lewis mentioned that in Chapter 4, Land Use, there are four distinct districts in Tamworth. Diana wanted to know why we did not include Wonalcet.

Katy Thompson questioned the placement of the proposed commercial area over the Ossipee Aquifer.

Tom Peters responded that the commercial area is not intrusive to the aquifer. Light industry will not deposit anything offensive.

Scott Aspinall and John Mersfelder also responded that there are many businesses already over the aquifer. It is possible that there may be ordinances in the future for its further protection.

Katy Thompson also asked why the Master Plan has eliminated the "industrial" zone.

Tom Peters responded that some things were left in limbo so that the Planning Board can identify those areas later if zoning is implemented.

Willie Farnum mentioned that the Pine Barrens is now a unique conserved habitat where intense industrial development is not wanted. Industry will be put in areas that are compatible with the environment and with the town's infrastructure. Heavy industry, for instance, cannot go into Wonalancet without rebuilding the roads for heavy trucks.

Ned Beecher asked two questions:

1. Is there anything in the Master Plan that will limit our options in the future?
2. Is there anything that is too specific?

Tom Peters responded that the Master Plan is a flexible document. The Master Plan does not limit or restrict any area.

Ann Albrecht pointed out that the Master Plan itself is not a legal document.

Scott Aspinall further said that a Master Plan is supposed to be dynamic, flexible, not set.

Paul King pointed out that an ordinance does not have to be consistent with a Master Plan. It can be modified.

John Mersfelder wondered whether the words, "The Planning Board should" ought to be changed. Does the word "should" imply that the Planning Board has more authority than it actually has?

Willie Farnum responded that the Planning Board is required to hold public hearings on decisions it makes. Tom Peters said that the Master Plan Committee did not want to leave responsibilities ambiguous. Thus, the Master Plan Committee assigned responsibilities.

Paul King mentioned that #6 in Community Facilities in the Implementation Section is already done. It can be eliminated.

Ned Beecher asked if the Master Plan mentions all the town's organizations and the extensive amount of volunteer work done by Tamworth residents.

Tom Peters responded that the town's organizations are listed in the

Recreation and Cultural and Historic Resources chapters.

Cimbria Badenhausen said that volunteer work of people is important, that the energy of people should be used to do some of the work of the town. Cimbria would like to be called upon as an Environmental Consultant in order to educate and green the community.

Tom Peters responded by saying that the Tamworth Master Plan is an example of great magnitude of Tamworth's volunteers. Except for the Vision and Land

Use workshops conducted by professionals from outside Tamworth, every piece of the Tamworth Master Plan was done by Tamworth residents who committed their own extensive time and money to the project. Tom said that the document speaks for itself. When technical work was needed, a person to do it always showed up.

Pat Farley added that two people should receive special recognition for their work on the Master Plan. They are Tom Peters and David Little.

When everybody finished speaking, Dom Bergen said that anybody could drop off comments at the Town Offices. There being no further discussion, Dom brought the hearing to an end at 8:30 p.m.

Future Meeting

The Tamworth Planning Board is meeting at the Tamworth Town Offices on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Discussion of the Tamworth Master Plan will begin about 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Ann Albrecht  
Recording Secretary  
Tamworth Master Plan