

Town of Tamworth

Planning Board

***DRAFT WORK SESSION MINUTES ***

April 14, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Dom Bergen Chairman, David Little, Nicole Maher-Whiteside, Becca Boyden; Willie Farnum, Selectmen's Rep, Steve Gray, and Skip Nason.

Members Absent:

Alternates Present: Pat Farley, Tom Peters

Alternates Absent: David Cluff

Blair Folts and Roger TerKyle were present from the Green Mountain Conservation Commission. Dave Jeffers was present on behalf of the Lakes Region Planning Commission. A discussion was held regarding the Ossipee Aquifer Protection Groundwater Protection Ordinance and the reasons why Tamworth should participate.

Many handouts were distributed during Mr. TerKyle's presentation. (see attached).

The Ossipee Aquifer spans from Bartlett NH to Saco, ME. It is a high yield aquifer that can recharge quickly, but is vulnerable to contamination.

Madison, Ossipee, Freedom and Effingham are currently involved with the process. Tamworth is the last of the surrounding towns to receive this presentation.

The Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee has been holding meetings. The next meeting is Friday, May 14 from 10-12 at the Huntress House in Ossipee.

Lakes Region Planning Commission is available to help towns draft their ordinances, at no cost to the town. DES has provided a document template for towns to customize. GMCC received DES grant funding in partnership with LRPC for this project.

David Little asks how this would apply to Tamworth, which currently has no zoning. Dave Jeffers states that LRPC will be available to help Tamworth draft something that will work for this town.

There is a question about how it would apply, as the draft DES template seems to apply to towns that have commercial zones, and Tamworth does not have that. Blair from LRPC feels that this could be covered in the definitions portion of the ordinance.

Tom P. wants the concise objective of the ordinance. LRPC feels that the ordinance will address the protection of groundwater resources from pollution. Public health, safety and general welfare should be considered.

A member of the audience asks if this isn't an issue that is already addressed at the State level. Dave Jeffers responds that though the State already has some covers in place, towns are allowed to take things further than that. This would provide the opportunity for local inspection and for addressing issues locally.

Willie feels that this allows the Town to be proactive instead of reactionary.

Becca reads State RSA 485c which enable the Town to construct ordinances or protective activities. She talks about State involvement at the level in which they allow local governments to restrict activities, but do not necessarily make or enforce restrictions at the State level.

Willie is concerned that with the reduced budget throughout the State of NH, only the most important projects will be addressed.

Nicole feels that local control is something NH prides itself on and that it is important for the Planning Board to be proactive.

Skip feels that the major problem is the existing businesses, that are already in operation.

David Little asks about retroactive issues. Dave Jeffers responds that there is grandfathering, but any change of use or expanded use will require meeting new standards.

Willie feels that education is a large component.

Becca likes the proposed ordinance for structure and guidelines.

Steve G feels that the draft refers to managements. A lot of uses are restricted regardless of the management that may be in place for them.

Dave Jeffers responds that there are 8 restricted uses that are considered high risk activities. 7 of these should have performance standards, and 2 are in conditional uses. Other activities are exempt/

Steve G is concerned about prohibition rather than management.

The meeting is moved to the Cook Library to view the movie "Communities and Consequences". The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Links to additional handout materials:

Groundwater Protection Ordinance

For the presentation on the Aquifer Protection Ordinance, documents are on the LRPC website: http://www.lakesrpc.org/services_resources.asp

See specific links are below for the draft ordinance and background

information on the project.

Major Points:

http://www.lakesrpc.org/documents/groundw/Major_Points_GPO.pdf

Draft Ordinance

http://www.lakesrpc.org/documents/groundw/Ossipee_Watershed_GPO_DRAFT.pdf

Fact Sheets:

http://www.lakesrpc.org/documents/groundw/Ossipee_Aquifer_GPO_Q-As.pdf

http://www.lakesrpc.org/documents/groundw/Ossipee_Aquifer_GPO_FAQ.pdf

http://www.lakesrpc.org/documents/groundw/Ossipee_Aquifer_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Maps:

Tamworth: http://www.lakesrpc.org/documents/groundw/Aquifer_Tamworth.jpg