

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

December 15, 2015

SPECIAL MEETING MRI REPORT WORK SESSION

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Gilman convened the Board of Selectmen at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Library. Also present were Selectwoman Anne Surman, Selectman Dan Chartrand, Vice Chair Selectman Don Clement, and Selectwoman Nancy Belanger. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present.

The Board continued their review of the MRI report. The town manager provided three handouts: Kingston vision statements from Selectman Clement, a compilation of the MRI recommendations, and a copy of the Housing and Community Development plan last amended in 2013.

One recommendation was to hold an immediate all boards meeting and the Board focused on this recommendation. Chairwoman Gilman identified the priority of filling the planning position. There is a need to begin reaching out to boards and committees to get feedback on the issues. The all boards meeting was recommended. Selectman Clement agreed the all boards meeting was a good idea. It's a starting point.

The Board discussed their perceptions of the land use boards and the need for outreach. Selectman Chartrand said part of the issue was developing a common vision. Some were coming from a preserve and protect angle and the rebalancing of things caused fracturing as he sees it. The Board discussed the concept of bringing civility to the meetings and for the all boards meeting a set of ground rules would need to be developed.

Selectman Clement stated the MRI report felt the boards were operating in silos. He felt the planning board was not engaged actively by the EDC or the Selectboard in regards to the recent zoning change proposed for Epping Road. They are not working on a common purpose. Selectwoman Belanger noticed a domino effect of negativity and encouraged the need to listen and encourage conversation. We need to come to some common ground about how to get to a common vision. We can't feed the negativity and tone is an issue. Selectman Chartrand said he felt the EDC would be glad to have a meeting with other boards. Chairwoman Gilman said she felt all boards were entitled to give their opinions on things especially the master plan. Selectman Chartrand mentioned the citizen's petition from the EDC and said they are utilizing the process and the EDC voted to support the citizen's petition. Chairwoman Gilman said the planning office now sends out all board agendas for all boards to each department, etc.. Selectman Clement said the all boards discussion was a good one – there should be a goal and objective of the all boards meeting. It should have a structure. One goal could be to air out implications of the MRI report. Chairwoman Gilman said there is training available from agencies like OEP for input on what isn't known.

The town manager covered recent staff meetings and how he is approaching the MRI report with staff, coming up with progress through identifying solutions. They were told to take the report at face value and see it as an opportunity to improve and are responding. The town manager updated the board on the planner hiring process, there are good candidates and he wants the atmosphere to be conducive to attracting a strong final candidate.

FINAL MINUTES

After discussion, Selectwoman Surman indicated it would be good to have the all boards meeting sooner rather than later. Selectman Chartrand suggested Chairwoman Gilman call all the chairs together prior to the meeting to begin outreach. Selectman Chartrand suggested outlining with the board chairs what it will involve. The Board then discussed the all boards meeting. Selectwoman Surman said their should be a real agenda so it is a forum of value. The Town Hall was suggested as a location with possible breakout groups. After discussing dates the Board settled on February 10th as a planned date, one day after the NH Primary.

The town manager reviewed the code of conduct recommendation with the Board and asked if there was to be follow up. The Board discussed the item. Selectman Chartrand supported the notion, Selectman Clement believed there are some aspects of how the board conducts themselves that could be reviewed. A timeframe for public comment was discussed. Selectwoman Surman raised questions as to whether there were rules for public comment. Selectman Chartrand referred to the policies and procedures. Maybe the code of conduct should stand alone. After further discussion there was a desire expressed to come up with a code of conduct and orientation package for board members. A vision statement was discussed to come from the Selectboard to give to new board members of the appointed boards. Chairwoman Gilman will begin reaching out to the chairs.

2. Adjournment

Selectman Chartrand moved to adjourn. Selectwoman Surman seconded. Motion carried. The Board stood adjourned at 8:30 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Dean
Town Manager