



March 2, 2016

Minutes

HUBBARDSTON PLANNING BOARD
Slade Building

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Tom Robinson, Acting Chair
Other members present: Vin Ritchie, MaryAnn DiPinto, Thomas Bratko,
Staff: Janet Baczewski

Minutes: No meeting minutes were reviewed and there were no motions to accept.

Motion: **Second:**

Review Article 6 Rate of Development By Law

The Planning Board has written an article to recommend the re-adoption Article 6, Rate of Development, as written with one change to Section 6.8, changing the expiration date to June, 1 2025. This article will be submitted to the Selectboard for placement on the town warrant.

Article on Funding for Master Plan

The Planning Board has written an article to request funding of \$10,000 from the town for the development of an updated Master Plan for the town of Hubbardston. This article will be submitted to the Selectboard for placement on the town warrant. MaryAnn DiPinto, as Planning Board representative to the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), will also look into the writing of a grant application to obtain funding for the Master Plan through the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). If approved, this grant could replenish the town funding.

Tom Robinson, Acting Chair, opened up a discussion among the Planning Board, concerning earth intake. He read a citizens' petition from Mark Dymek that will restrict all earth in-take into the town of Hubbardston. This petition will be submitted to the Selectboard, to be placed on the town warrant, and a public hearing will be held. MaryAnn DiPinto suggested the Planning Board write their own earth intake by-law article for the town warrant, monitoring the restrictions of the earth intake. Vin Ritchie states that he does not feel the Planning Board should take on the responsibility of the ramifications of such large scale earth intake projects. Vin Ritchie and Tom Robinson recommended prohibiting earth in-take all together. Tom Bratko discussed the regulation of earth intake to protect the environment. MaryAnn decided to submit her suggestion as a citizens' petition to the Selectboard, to be placed on the town warrant, and a public hearing will be held, as well.

The Planning Board will refer to the Hubbardston General By-Laws and follow up with their requirements, as stated under the General Provisions of Chapter XIX, Earth Removal. The Planning Board, as Permit Granting Authority, will compile an annual report of current activities and status of all earth removal operations in town. Tom Bratko will research a list of all gravel operations from the Assessor's Office and prepare a report for the Selectboard.

Vin Ritchie left the meeting at 7:57pm.

A motion was presented to suspend the Planning Board meeting.

Motion: Tom Bratko **Second: MaryAnn DiPinto** **All In Favor.**

A motion was presented to open the Public Hearing at 8:00pm.

Motion: MaryAnn DiPinto **Second: Tom Bratko** **All In Favor.**

Public Hearing for the removal a 36" diameter red oak tree on Old Westminster Road, a scenic road:

This petition was presented by the Hubbardston Highway Dept. and the Tree Warden. Highway Superintendent, Tim Killhart spoke on his reasoning for the removal. There are issues with the road drainage in the area that the tree is currently located. The tree sticks out into the road from a drainage ditch and causes flooding into the road. Tree Warden, Jeff Bourque, stated that he had no reason to object to the cutting of this tree by the Highway Dept.

A motion was presented to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Tom Bratko **Second: MaryAnn DiPinto** **All In Favor.**

