

TOWN OF JAFFREY, NH
PLANNING BOARD
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019

Present: Chairman Gordon, Members McKenzie, Sherman, Alternate Member Dupuis and Selectmen's Representative Belletete

Absent: Members Despres, Merrell and Meyers, *Alternate Member Dupuis will vote*

Staff: JoAnne Carr, Director of Planning and Economic Development

PRELIMINARY CONCEPTUAL - No Action

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Gordon called the public hearing to order at 6:00 pm.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL – no action

PUBLIC HEARING – ACCEPTANCE – no action

PUBLIC HEARING – NEW – no action

DECISIONS

OTHER BUSINESS

Jaffrey Climate Initiative – Tory McCagg

Chairman Gordon introduced Tory McCagg representing the Jaffrey Climate Initiative, an action group dedicated to promoting careful and informed stewardship of Jaffrey's environment. Chairman Gordon suggested the Planning Board consider ways to incorporate energy efficiency and reduction of impacts made on our environment in future planning. Ms. McCagg shared her presentation (see below) which she hopes will educate Jaffrey citizens and businesses on how to create a cleaner and healthier environment. Members of the JCI would be happy to work with the PB on the Master Plan.

Ms. Carr – noted that there was an energy committee at one time which is now defunct. If the energy committee is resurrected, perhaps a few members of the JCI could be part of it.

Workshops – Jo Anne Carr

W.W. Cross workshop is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, Jaffrey Civic Center from 9-1 The goal is to come up with a good re-use plan so if/when the Town moves forward with acquiring the property, a plan will be ready when the application is submitted for a brownfields grant.

Zoning – A zoning workshop is proposed for Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to re-think zoning and get an idea as to where the board will go in the future. Ms. Carr will share background and alternatives and get ideas on what the PB wants to do.

CIP Committee – Jo Anne Carr - Jon is looking for two members of the PB to be on the committee. Chairman Gordon and Member Meyers volunteered.

Downtown Traffic Project - a couple of Jaffrey land owners have approached the State to ask that their properties be included in the Downtown Traffic Project. Negotiations with all affected properties would need to be complete prior to sending the 90-day notice. It was suggested that the Public Hearing be held in late summer to allow more people to attend. At this time, construction is still on schedule.

J-R Separation Study – Laurel McKenzie – the committee is currently collecting student data, the next steps include the financial and education pieces. The committee has until the end of October to submit their

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plan. They are looking for members of the general public, preferable those who have students in school, to be part of the committee.

Decisions - Zoning Board of Adjustment

1. ZBA 19-03, Jeanne Daniels, Owner - 7 Piper Lane - Map 239 / Lot 257
Zone: General Business (with town water & sewer)

Special Exception – The applicant requests a special exception to allow an accessory dwelling unit in the general business district. (Land Use Code, Zoning Ordinance Section V, 5.4)

On a **motion** by Tieger, seconded by Durand to allow an accessory dwelling unit in the general business district. (5-0-0)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

Submitted:



Rebecca Newton
Recording Secretary

Attest:



Tim Gordon
Chairman, Jaffrey Planning Board

JCI INTRO: May 15, 2019

To the Planning Board:

Thank you all for allowing us to come and make our presentation. And thank you to the members of the JCI committee who helped to put together this missive.

The Jaffrey Climate Initiative (JCI) is a newly forming citizen action group dedicated to promoting careful and informed stewardship of Jaffrey's environment. Our focus is energy systems and use, the conservation of resources, and agriculture & soil health. We will be advancing policies and actions that we believe will contribute to Jaffrey having a thriving and resilient economy, where our residents have access to clear air and water, renewable energy sources, and healthy, locally grown food.

The JCI recognizes that the Planning Board has historically worked hard to create a business friendly environment, while preserving Jaffrey's rural character and protecting its natural resources. We believe that by adopting policies that foster energy efficiency in buildings and transportation, encourage the wise use of resources (e.g. reuse, repurposing and recycling), and support local food production, the Planning Board could increase the community's resilience, strengthening our ability to confront the challenges that are predicted to come with climate disruption. Jaffrey could build a reputation as an environmentally sound community, attractive to businesses, youth and tourists alike.

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For example, as businesses expand, they could better manage storm water with the use of permeable pavers for new parking lots. They can reduce their fresh water consumption through the utilization of greywater systems, and use their roofs to catch and store rain water, reducing the burden placed on our public and private water supply and sewage treatment systems. Roofs can also be used for solar panels that could heat water, and generate electricity. Reducing rainwater overflow into our waterways and lowering energy costs is also a great branding opportunity because businesses that help to create a cleaner and healthier environment are investing in the future.

Most businesses and homeowners are, of course, concerned about the expense of infrastructure and home and business retrofitting. There are, indeed, upfront costs but there are also returns on investment and financial assistance programs, such as NH Saves, and rebates for both residential buildings and businesses, all of which help to defray those costs. Educating Jaffrey citizens and businesses about these possibilities is an important part of our mission.

The JCI would also like to make clear that if all the externalities, subsidies and long term effects of fossil fuels are included, “business-as-usual” is far more expensive than adopting these new technologies. Whether or not a person believes in the pending “climate crisis,” it is unwise, and economically ill-advised to ignore what Exxon/Mobil stated in 2014: That fossil fuels are a finite resource, and will be inexpedient to dig up by the year 2040. Not if, when. Children born today will be 21 in 2040. For their sake, we must prepare.

*On April 22, 2019, New York State became the 3rd state in the nation to ban single use plastics.

*On July 1, 2020 Vermont will ban all food waste from its landfills.

*100s of towns and cities nationwide have signed on to become 100% renewable energy and zero waste communities. Keene, Cornish, Plainfield, Hanover, Concord have all signed on.

These are not impossible goals. They are achievable and necessary. Jaffrey is at the same a crossroads faced by the whole Monadnock Region, the State, the nation and the world. The challenges provide an enormous opportunity for growth and revitalization. The JCI hopes that the Planning Board will facilitate these changes by adding a chapter to the Town’s Master Plan that focusses on clean and renewable energy, waste reduction, water conservation and the support of local food production and farms. And then promote and encourage them.