

TOWN OF JAFFREY, NH
PLANNING BOARD WORK SESSION
Minutes
August 10, 2021

Present: Ed Merrell, Margaret Dillon, Jack Belletete, Laurel McKenzie, Keith Dupuis, William (Bud) Taylor

Absent: Amy Meyers, John Peard (alt)

Staff: JoAnne Carr, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Becky Newton, Recording Secretary

Other: Tory McCagg, Carl Querfurth

CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair McKenzie called the public hearing to order at 6:00 pm.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

On a **motion** by Belletete, seconded by Dupuis the minutes of July 6, 2021 were approved as amended. (5-0-1)
W Taylor abstained

WORK SESSION

A lengthy discussion was had regarding the future of the TIFD. Should they be kept as is, enlarged or disbanded? L McKenzie is in favor of disbanding them once the bond for Community Field is paid off. Future projects could be funded through the general fund. J Carr noted that the EDC does not support this proposal due to ongoing projects within the districts.

Below are final recommendations for the Downtown Master Plan implementation strategy.

Recommendations/Implementation Plan

Downtown Jaffrey has a vast amount of potential to once again become the epicenter of community life for residents of Jaffrey and become a desirable tourist location for visitors to the region. By creating a vision of Downtown Jaffrey that all stakeholders are willing to embrace, the town can begin to take some necessary steps to revitalize the area. The following is a list of recommendations for creating an environment that will foster downtown revitalization:

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY UPDATE (DRAFT 8/11/21)

	Priority (1,2,3)	Time Frame* (S,M,L)	Funding (Potential Source)	Leadership
1) Goal: Coordinate Downtown Planning into the DOT 202/124 Intersection Improvements.				
<i>Action:</i> Recommend the Select Board appoint a Downtown Revitalization Committee. (DT Committee)	1	S	N/A	Select Board
<i>Action:</i> Consider TIFD District Boundaries.	1	S	N/A	PB/EDC/DT Committee
2) Goal: Encourage Attractive Commercial Development & Inviting DT Events				
<i>Action:</i> Develop an outreach plan and communication strategy to reach businesses and residents ¹ .	1	S	PB/EDC Budget	DT Committee

¹ A comprehensive outreach strategy would include a broad spectrum of interests as outlined in the Master Plan

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	Priority (1,2,3)	Time Frame* (S,M,L)	Funding (Potential Source)	Leadership
<i>Action:</i> Pursue site environmental site assessment and remediation for the W.W. Cross facility.	1	S	EPA	Town Staff/BrAC
<i>Action:</i> Provide an information kiosk/welcome center for projects and events happening in town.	1	S	DT TIFD	DT Committee
<i>Action:</i> Increase opportunities for building social capital in DT through promotion of the arts & culture and support of organizations that provide such services.	2	M	DT TIFD, private funds, partnerships	Civic Center, TEAM Jaffrey, Chamber, Grass roots coalitions
<i>Action:</i> Evaluate existing Site Plan Regulations and Zoning for consistency with DT redevelopment goals (parking, access, uses) ²	2	M	N/A	PB
<i>Action:</i> Evaluate PB conditions of approval for Site Plans, for maintenance of infrastructure and enforcement.	2	M	N/A	PB
<i>Action:</i> Update the Main Street Program's (Architectural) Design Guidelines for inclusion in the Site Plan Regulations.	2	M	N/A	PB, TEAM Jaffrey
3) Goal: Improve Pedestrian access along Route 202N				
<i>Action:</i> Implement Pedestrian Enhancements as per NH transportation Alternatives Program funding.	2	S	NH DOT TAP	PB School Town Staff
<i>Action:</i> Extend interconnections on the Rail Trail	2	M-L	DOT/ Transportation Enhancements	ConCom/ Rec/TEAM Jaffrey Town Staff
4) Goal: Investigate applicability of adopting a Neighborhood/Local Historic District				
<i>Action:</i> Conduct a "Place Audit" or "Community Assets Inventory"	2	M	N/A	DT Committee
<i>Action:</i> Review the extent of the existing Historic District; determine interest and viability of an expanded district.	3	L	N/A	DT Committee
<i>Action:</i> Survey owners and residents for local interest; provide information on potential benefits. ³	3	L	N/A	DT Committee
5) Goal: Per Town Meeting 2020 Article 39: Sets a goal of 100% renewable, zero waste community.				
<i>Action:</i> Investigate options for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	1	S	Grants/ DOT	Town Staff/DT Committee

² Should this item be a higher priority?

³ Recognizing a potential conflict between historic structures and potential low energy/carbon neutral retrofits.

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	Priority (1,2,3)	Time Frame* (S,M,L)	Funding (Potential Source)	Leadership
<i>Action:</i> Follow-up with WW Cross workshop for site redevelopment as an innovative technology center see https://www.townofjaffrey.com/sites/g/files/vyhli4561/f/uploads/wwcross_draft_report.pdf	2	M	N/A	Town Staff/ MEDC/EPA

* S= Short Term: 1 year, M= Medium Term: 1-2 years, L=Long Term: 3-5 years

On a **motion** by Taylor, seconded Dillon to move the recommendations for the Downtown Master Plan implementation strategy to public hearing. (6-0-0)

OTHER

Jaffrey Climate Initiative - Tory McCagg shared a statement of purpose with the board (included). Ms. McCagg noted that JCI members are available to be part of committees in the future.

L McKenzie – asked what is the process to move forward with an annual evaluation of TEAM Jaffrey? Consider the events hosted by TEAM and the Chamber, how can they bring more visitors to Jaffrey? J Carr noted that the Jaffrey Chamber is hosting a meeting of downtown organizations in September, perhaps this topic could be part of that discussion.

ZONING BOARD DECISIONS

ZBA 21-22 Steven Sliwoski – received partial approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm
Submitted:



Rebecca Newton
Recording Secretary

Attest:



Laurel McKenzie
Planning Board Vice Chair

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Jaffrey Climate Initiative

Planning Board: Aug. 10, 2021

The Jaffrey Climate Initiative, a.k.a. the JCI, is a citizen action group dedicated to creating a resilient future by promoting careful and informed stewardship of our environment in the areas of energy, agriculture & soil health, resource conservation and policy.

We envision Jaffrey as a community with a thriving and resilient economy, where our residents have access to clear air and water, clean and renewable energy sources, and healthy, locally grown food.

The JCI is excited to hear that the Planning Board has been discussing the future, and considering integrating principles of sustainability and resiliency to the Master Plan. Given this past year's societal and environmental challenges, and, of course, yesterday's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report that concluded with a CODE RED for humanity—it seems like an auspicious time to plan ahead—not one or five years but twenty and fifty years. Investing in the future is a means to preparing for it. The recent flooding, when we, as a town, had to react in a costly and relatively unplanned manner to an extreme weather event, is an example of what is to come.

We believe that conscious, responsible and freely chosen change now will be far less costly than this more seat of the pants, survival kind of reaction. This will, of course, require change of habits and minds. Change is uncomfortable and often unwelcome. But now is the time to take control and embrace change by preparing for it.

The beauty of Jaffrey? It is the home of Mount Monadnock, and the historic center of manufacturing and technology. Jaffrey could be the crossroads where the paths of human potential and nature's resilience and persistence meet. Through the creation and promotion of sound environmental practices and safer, innovative technologies, Jaffrey can actively foster a healthy and vibrant economy.

We believe these goals are entirely achievable and absolutely necessary for the good of our citizens, and their pocketbooks. And we look forward to working with the Planning Board and other town boards and committees, as well as our community to ensure and support a prosperous and healthy future.