

Newfield Planning Board Meeting

November 2, 2011

In Attendance:

Planning Board: Gary Goff (Chair), Randy Brown, Tony Russo, Chris Hayes, Jim Haustein (secretary)

Minutes submitted by: Jim Haustein

Agenda Items

1. Review and Comment on the Draft Outline for the Comprehensive Plan
2. Comments from Copies of Sample Plans
3. Update on Chris Hayes' Work
4. Where We Go From Here
5. Other Business

Comprehensive Plan Outline

The proposed draft outline for the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed and commented upon. Below is the outline going forward, subject to further modification as needed:

- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Vision
 - Comprehensive Plan Development Process
 - Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan
- Population
- Governance
 - Town Government
 - Planning Board and the Use of the Comprehensive Plan
- Housing
- Economic Development
 - Agriculture
 - Small Business
 - Other Business
- Services
 - Transportation
 - Municipal Utilities
 - Education
 - Energy
 - Health, Safety and Security
- Resources
 - Forest, Wildlife Management and Natural Areas
 - Water/Watershed
 - Community Character
- Action Plan
- Appendices
 - History

- Public Input
- Summary of Previous and Existing “Visionary” Efforts for Newfield
- Other as Required

Comments on Other Sample Plans

We need a specific format for the chapters of the Newfield Comprehensive Plan. Chris Hayes will develop a format for the Planning Board to review. The Harford Comprehensive Plan appeared to be a good one.

Update on Chris Hayes’ Work and Where We Go From Here

Chris Hayes should work with volunteers in developing the Plan. For example, volunteers could help with reviewing the chapters of the Plan.

With regard to the Economic Development section of the document, additional information is needed. Chris should work with volunteers and set up a discussion group with about 10 targeted business professionals in Newfield and discuss approximately five questions,. Randy Brown will contact several individuals who previously expressed a desire to assist in this arena. First task will be to develop a list of potential companies/individuals. Ideally, the group should meet about the first week of December.

Gene Yaples may be able to work with farmers regarding the agriculture section.

It may be advantageous to contact individuals responsible for municipal utilities to get their input.

Other Business

- The idea of a one page Comprehensive Plan was discussed. This would provide some basis for documenting community desires, particularly in light of gas drilling. Another alternative would be a moratorium on drilling.

Previously, Randy Brown attended a meeting of the Newfield Town Board (acting as a private citizen) and discussed the notion of a moratorium on gas drilling. Randy agreed to develop a draft memo for the Planning Board to review and present to the Town Board. The purpose of a six-to-twelve month moratorium would be to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan is completed prior to drilling so that the Town Board is in a position to utilize community values and priorities contained within the Plan to make decisions regarding the issue of drilling. Newfield previously had a windmill moratorium so there is precedent for this type of action.

- Due to other commitments, Gary Goff is no longer in a position to serve as the Chair for the Newfield Planning Board. Randy Brown has agreed to take over this position; Gary will, however, remain an active member of the Planning Board. Gary Goff will advise the Town Board to request approval of this change.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Chris Hayes to validate census data with the base demographics in the Plan Survey,

- Randy Brown to contact select volunteers regarding their assistance with the Economic Development section of the Plan.
- Chris Hayes to host a meeting in early December regarding Economic Development.
- Randy Brown to draft a memo for Planning Board review to request that the Town Board consider a moratorium on drilling to allow completion of the Comprehensive Plan prior to drilling activities in Newfield.
- Gary Goff to advise the Town Board regarding a transfer of Planning Board Chairmanship.