

Newfield Planning Board Meeting

December 21, 2011

In Attendance:

Planning Board: Randy Brown (Chair), Gary Goff, Tony Russo, Nancy Dolge (volunteer), Jim Haustein (secretary)

Minutes submitted by: Jim Haustein

Agenda Items

1. Discussion of Drilling Moratorium Letter
2. Discussion of Letter for Newfield Businesses
3. Finalize List of Businesses for Economic Development Meeting
4. Update from Chris Hayes on the Writing of the Comprehensive Plan
5. Discussion of Demographic Comparison
6. Discuss What Volunteers will be Doing
7. Other

Gas Drilling Moratorium Letter

Randy Brown presented a draft letter (from the Planning Board to the Newfield Town Board) recommending a gas drilling moratorium to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan is completed in advance of drilling. Moratoriums are generally six months duration and a six month renewal is generally acceptable.

Drilling activities can be considered as industrial development in the Comprehensive Plan. Considerations would include traffic, roads, noise and lighting.

Following discussion and a few suggestions for modifying the letter, a decision was made to request further input from Planning Board members who were not present and have additional conversation regarding this issue at the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Planning Board. Goal is to ensure that the Planning Board is reflecting public opinion on this matter.

Newfield Business Letter

Randy Brown presented a draft letter (from the Planning Board to Newfield Business Owners) inviting them to the Economic Development meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday, January 18 in the Newfield Town Hall. Purpose of this meeting is to obtain input from local business owners for use in the Comprehensive Plan.

Several editorial and contextual changes to the letter were recommended by the Planning Board.

The January 18 meeting will include an introduction and welcome by Randy Brown; discussion regarding the recent dissolution of the Newfield Business Association and the potential benefits for such an organization. Questions for general discussion were reviewed and modified by Chris Hayes and will be handed out prior to the meeting. A decision was made by the Planning Board to request Chris Hayes chair the meeting.

Finalize List of Businesses

Randy Brown provided the most recent list of Business Owners and contact points. Letters inviting these individuals to the January 18 meeting should be sent approximately January 2. Randy Brown will make follow up calls, beginning about January 9.

Update on Writing the Comprehensive Plan

As Chris Hayes was not present, only minimal discussion took place regarding this agenda item.

Demographic Comparison

Chris Hayes is working on a comparison of demographic data of individuals completing the 2010 Comprehensive Plan Survey with 2010 US Census data.

Volunteers

The list of individuals who have volunteered to assist the Planning Board write the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed; Gary Goff will contact prospective volunteers regarding involvement.

Other

Randy Brown will draft a letter to members of the Newfield Farming Community regarding the January 25 meeting that Gene Yaples will be hosting.

Purpose of this meeting is to obtain input from local farmers for use in the Comprehensive Plan.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Randy Brown and Tony Russo to discuss drilling moratorium letter with members of the Planning Board who were not present at the December 21 meeting.
- Randy Brown to send letter to for business owners solicited for attendance at the January 18 Economic Development meeting. Letters should be sent approximately January 2. Randy Brown will make follow up calls, beginning about January 9.
- Randy Brown to draft letter for members of the Newfield Farming community regarding the January 25 meeting.
- Gary Goff to contact prospective volunteers regarding involvement in assisting with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Gene Yaples to plan January 25 Farming Meeting.;