**SELECT BOARD**

**Public Hearing**

**2019-2026 Town Plan**

**Thursday, October 17, 2019**

**6:00PM @ Grafton Elementary School**

**6:00 PM: Public Hearing by the Grafton Selectboard:**

The Chair opened the hearing of the Board of Selectmen at 6:00 PM.

**Selectboard Members present:** Chair Joe Pollio, Al Sands, Stan Mack, Cathy Siano-Goodwin and Chris Wallace.

**Others present** Joan Lake, Noreen Sands, Maryanne Donald, Bob Donald, Christine Tattersall, Pat Jeziorski, Peter Jeziorski, Dottie Cannon, Liisa Kissel, Galen Pinkham, Mary Feder, David Clark, Frances Alford, Mark Hensel, Dave Culver Chair Planning Commission, Anna Vesely, Ron Pilette, John Turner, Valerie Rooney, Wendy Martin, Meg Gonzales, Lynn Field, Mike Field, Maggie Stewart, Craig Ruggless, Gary Jackemuk, Eric Stevens, Sandy Stevens, Kirk Goodwin, Sandra Readler, and TA Bill Kearns.

The Chair explained that relevant to the discussion and this hearing are specific edits to the Plan before the meeting, which was the July 11th version of the Town Plan approved for these hearings on July 11th, 2019. If there are changes to the Plan, then another hearing would be necessitated on and that would likely be on Nov 7th. We will allow you to speak once, and then again after others have been heard from so that many people have an opportunity to participate in the meeting.

The Chair asked for a Motion on the agenda. Chris Wallace moved, second by Al Sands to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The chair recognized Liisa Kissel. She stated the version of the Town Plan under discussion was the Planning Commission (PC) version with the Selectboard (SB) edits, and then a return to the PC language about wind and the river corridors. She said it would be logical to go back entirely to the PC version in that the language of the Plan would be more internally consistent and because the WRC had approved that Plan for 4302 compliance and Energy – substantial deference by the PUC. It would be best to go back to that version. That PC version is compliant.

Stan Mack stated he had no problem with the PC Plan but would not include the Skip Lisle essay and other things, like the “Three Sisters” reference to the three brooks coming down to Townshend Road.

Joe Pollio stated he had issues with the PC Energy Plan and would not vote to adopt the PC version because the Plan needs approval by PUC and WRC and must provide for the future of Grafton and its residents.

John Turner asked what Joe Pollio did not like about the PC version. Joe Pollio stated it was not good for Grafton and might not allow Grafton to have preferred standing before the PUC.

Cathy Siano-Goodwin stated she liked the original Plan – the PC version - and that she had not part in the SB edits. She did not like the edits, which removed information from the Plan. She would like to see the Plan passed. It is a working document and could be changed later.

Anna Vesely stated the original – PC version – Plan was legal, would attain substantial deference and thus meets the SB requirements.

At this point Stan Mack moved, second Cathy Siano-Goodwin to accept the Plan that the PC first sent to the SB and which carries the “print date” February 4, 2019.

Al Sands commented that his has been a long process, years in the making, meetings attended by a good many people but hardly characterized as a group representative of the Town. Many persons with opposing views were discouraged and in his opinion quit the PC because of the treatment they received during discussions of the Plan. The PC version is a Town Plan that tells the residents what they cannot do, and not what they can do. The long-time residents of Grafton respect the land and because of that respect the water in Town is good. But this Plan wants to restrict what people can do on the land. The Plan wants the water to be specially categorized so that nothing can be done on the hills above Townshend Road, with the result that maple sugaring will be hampered and perhaps stopped. The Plan wants portions of the land to be Special and not touched, not harvested, even though the woods need work to be productive and to rid them of invasive species. Restriction meant to make forestry difficult for MTL. Agriculture and forestry are important parts of Grafton, and in a few sentences they are touted in the Plan, but other than those few mentions, neither Agriculture nor Forestry are discussed in any depth. For example, there is nothing about forestry in general or biomass and co-generation of electricity. The agriculture and forestry people did not participate in the development of the PC version of the Plan.

Valerie Rooney – a member of the PC – stated we want language in the Plan that supports agriculture and forestry. We need input from those interests.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion. Stan Mack, Chris Wallace and Cathy Siano-Goodwin voted “aye.” Al Sands and Joe Pollio voted “no.” The motion to accept the PC February 4th version as the Plan to be discussed at hearing passed 3-2.

Craig Ruggless questioned language concerning commercial generation of electricity and restrictions on it, which appeared to be contradictory. It was explained that it was not contradictory as the restriction referred to encouraging proper location of the activity and not encouraging the activity itself.

Stan Mack moved to adjourn the hearing, second by Al Sands and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

**Selectboard Meeting**

**Following the hearing on the Town Plan**

**October 17, 2019**

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:56 PM

Persons present – same as above.

1. Agenda: Motion by Stan Mack, second Al Sands to adopt the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to adopt the February 4th PC version of the Town Plan for the future hearing on the Plan. Comments: Joe Pollio does not like the Plan as it does not promote healthy economic growth of the Town and referred to discussions with the Windham Foundation CEO, who mentioned this lack in the Plan. Bob Donald stated her comments related less to economy and more to lack of mention of the WF in the Plan. Stan Mack stated he would like to see it evolve through work of the PC. Cathy Siano-Goodwin stated it can be better through work. Valerie Rooney stated that the PC would welcome Windham Foundation input. Chris Wallace stated we need a Plan – a starting point.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion passed 3 yes votes (Stan Mack, Chris Wallace and Cathy Siano-Goodwin), 2 no votes (Joe Pollio and Al Sands). Next hearing would be November 7, 2019 at the Town Garage at 6:00 P.

1. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Kearns