

Grafton Planning Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday February 21, 2023 7:00 PM

Grafton Town Hall 2nd Floor (Not ADA Compliant Please provide notice should access or assistance to the meeting be required.)

Tuesday, March 21 Minutes

Members present: Eric Stevens, Matt Siano, Ron Pilette, Seth Pajcic, Lester Schwalb, Buzz Fisher

1. Call to Order at 7:10
2. Agenda approved.
3. Minutes from February 21, 2023 approved.
4. Wastewater Plan. Since both field sites are no longer workable locations, T&B now has no other alternatives at this moment. They are searching for other sites, but many variables are making that appear not possible, as well. Over the course of the last year's PC meetings we have heard possibilities of alternative treatments that have been successfully used, but todate, T&B has not considered it. We need to get them to evaluate it. Matt is waiting to hear back from John Todd, who works for the company that did the U Mass system. are in communication with the company that does the biological treatment but haven't yet heard back from them. The PC recalled the advice about creating a town organized waste water committee to see us through the process. Lynette (the state government person) says that the state won't cover the biological process but we don't know why). This is a big problem, if we were to go this direction but This is also a regionally significant problem for multiple towns. A WRC representative was present for discussion. Possibility, one staff person could be fully employed if shared by several towns. It is understood that to increase housing and to increase infill development in the Town Village areas, one needs to solve this regional problem. We need more understanding of the system at the state level that is governing the rules
5. Flood hazard plan. Seth: we need to take that report and the proposed changes, send to the chair of the abutting town's planning commissions (Chester, Rockingham, Athens, Windham) and to other required entities and 30-day notice of the hearing, which will be for the May meeting. "Flood damage Prevention Regulations" is the title to be used. Immediately after the hearing, we need a meeting to take action, and, if appropriate, have a motion to send the report to the select board to have a hearing at their meeting.
6. Grafton News questions. Seth will submit these questions this coming month. Lester will check the e-mail GraftonPlanningCommission@gmail.com.
7. The maps are up. There are electronic versions that may be able to be put on the town website, in some way. They are higher resolution than the maps on the town plan on the website, but there is a limit for the size of items that one can put on the town website. Should go through the Morgan to put a link to a pdf that can people can zoom in.
8. New Business. This is the last meeting for Seth, who is going to Select Board and Buzz will be starting. Approved: Matt will be Chair, Eric will be Vice Chair, Lester will be clerk. In January, any person interested in serving on a town committee should call the Town Administrator to inquire about openings or wanting to replace someone.

Eric has been in conversation with the regional commission (WRC) re: land classification. Currently, 3/4 of the land in Grafton is currently classified as “resource lands” It is probably not accurate (i.e., to designate so much of Grafton as a wilderness preserve). This designation does protect forest blocks and animal habitat connectivity; however, Grafton can further those objectives without being in that designation (which is essentially designating the land as “wilderness preserve” which bottles up the land). Consequence: any time that someone wants to do something of regional significance, the use comes to be reviewed by a resource committee and is likely to be voted down. The map needs to be much more specific. The Select Board probably needs to think about easements between these forest blocks. This re-designation would be fair to landowners, while accomplishing the desired preservation goals.

9. Public Comment.

10. Next Meeting April 11, 2023

11. Meeting Adjourned 8:15