

## GEORGETOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 26, 2009

### CALL TO ORDER

The Georgetown Planning Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 in the Georgetown Town Hall, 404 6th Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Answering the roll were Chairperson Cynthia Skeen and Commissioners, Kathy Hunninen, Kerry Ann McHugh and Jan Shirlaw. Vice Chairperson Dana Abrahamson arrived at 6:05 p.m. Also in attendance was Recording Secretary/Town Clerk Merinel Williams.

AUDIENCE BUSINESS – None.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

Ms. Hunninen requested that a discussion of the validity of the election of the Vice Chairperson be added to the agenda. The Clerk requested that approval of the minutes be removed from the agenda as they have not yet been drafted. Ms. Skeen proposed that discussion of the Planning Commission's mission be removed from this agenda and added to the agenda of the next meeting. Ms. Hunninen requested that discussion regarding open pit burning regulations be removed from the agenda because discussion occurring with the Board of Selectmen may solve the issue. Ms. Shirlaw moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. McHugh seconded and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

### NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### Review draft letter to Board of Selectmen regarding the status of the Planning Commission's projects

The Commissioners reviewed a letter drafted by Ms. Skeen to the Board of Selectmen that transmits the Planning Commission's conclusions regarding the Board's request that the Commission study and plan for sidewalks. Included in the conclusions were:

- The Commission believes that the parking situation on Argentine Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> has been worked out with adequate response to the input of the residents of that area;
- The Town should urge the County Commissioners to issue a memo to county workers asking them to parking in the parking lots and not on the streets;
- The Commission did not see the lack of sidewalks on the east side of Rose Street just north of the Ram and just south of Strousse Park, and on the west side of Rose across from the Strousse Park parking lot as a safety hazard;
- The Commission did not conclude that the lack of sidewalks was a major safety problem;
- Any snow route should be clearly marked;

- Snow plowing for the town streets should begin during the night, if appropriate;
- Plowing of public parking lots is recommended, though the Commission understands that economic restrictions are a factor in the decision-making process;
- It is especially important for the snow to be removed from 6<sup>th</sup> street, in order to avoid icy build-up; and
- If property owners choose to maintain landscaping up to the road, the town is not responsible for any damage that may occur in the right-of-way due to snow removal operations.

Ms. McHugh suggested that the letter be amended to suggest that the Board consider restricting traffic flow to one-way for this street to address a safety concern for the school children. It was noted that it might also be helpful if the school would provide a crossing guard. By consensus, the Commission approved the letter as amended.

Discussion of validity of the election of the Vice Chairperson

Ms. Hunninen stated that the Commission's adopted Rules of Procedure require that the Vice Chairperson be elected by a majority of the Commission, and Ms. Abrahamson was elected by fewer votes. It was agreed that "majority of the Commission" means a majority of the quorum at the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the Rules were adopted by the Commission, but not by the Selectmen, about a year ago.

Ms. Hunninen moved that election of a Vice Chairperson be added to the Commission's next agenda. Ms. McHugh seconded and the motion was adopted by a vote of three (Hunninen, McHugh, Shirlaw) in favor, one (Abrahamson) against, and one (Skeen) abstention.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Skeen adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Merinel Williams, Town Clerk

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Cynthia Skeen, Chairperson