

GEORGETOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 28, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The Georgetown Planning Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 in the Georgetown Town Hall, 404 6th Street. Chairperson Sarah Kaminski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Answering the roll were Chairperson Sarah Kaminski, Vice Chairperson Paul Nisler and Commissioners Susan Romeo, Malcolm Schaefer and Greg Sterett. Also in attendance was Recording Secretary/Town Clerk Merinel Williams.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Nisler moved to approve the agenda as written. Mr. Schaefer seconded and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

AUDIENCE BUSINESS – None.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion with Police Judge Bennhoff and Town Administrator Stearns regarding the Commission's up-coming project to study traffic and parking issues

Mr. Bennhoff reviewed the significant amount of public comment he has received regarding traffic, signs and parking issues, and the Town's inclusion of \$5,100 in the 2008 budget for a college intern to help work on these issues. Mr. Stearns explained that the intern program is associated with a 490 level class at the School of Mines in either transportation and/or traffic engineering. He suggested that the scope of services for the intern would be to review and research the legality, applicability and to advise on a number of traffic, traffic signage and parking issues. He suggested further that more specifically one issue to be studied could be making 6th and 7th Streets downtown into a one-way loop, which might allow diagonal parking.

Mr. Schaefer stated that it will be very important for the Commission to work closely with law enforcement and emergency services agencies on this project. Ms. Kaminski added that another critical component will be to work closely with downtown merchants. Mr. Schaefer stated that past merchant concerns regarding a downtown one-way loop centered mostly on the impact to those businesses located on the side streets. If it is decided to implement the one-way loop, it might be a good idea to try a temporary test first. Mr. Nisler recalled the discussions centered around the large vehicle policy. The Clerk will search for records of these previous discussions.

Ms. Romeo noted that there is also relevant information in the Comprehensive Plan, and Mr. Sterett commented that improving parking lots and encouraging their use is also important. In response to a question from Mr. Bennhoff, it was agreed that parking issues

in the area of the courthouse deserve attention, and Mr. Nisler suggested that parking in the county's lots (except the Sheriff's lot) could be encouraged during promotional events.

Mr. Bennhoff inquired as to whether the Gateway entrance area should be studied, and the Commission members indicated their understanding that previous Town planning projects have established that a traffic circle has been selected as the solution for the 15th and Argentine St. intersection. Therefore, no further study of that area is needed.

Mr. Bennhoff invited the Commission's participation in recommending how the Town should spend its resources in the road and bridge area during the next few years, noting that issues will be different in the different wards, but all wards deserve attention since all property owners pay taxes that generate these funds. He noted that Ward II and III citizens have expressed concerns regarding signage to control traffic. Mr. Nisler suggested, and it was agreed, that the Commission will schedule a discussion of project priorities for its December 12 meeting.

Mr. Stearns estimated that the most likely schedule for the intern study will be either spring semester or summer. In response to a question from Ms. Romeo Mr. Stearns explained that while compatibility with potential mass transit on I-70 and a possible shuttle bus system are not immediate realities, those issues should be kept in mind when developing any current plans. In response to a question from Mr. Nisler, Mr. Bennhoff explained that a meeting has been held with the Red Cross concerning facilities to shelter people during emergencies.

Review draft Special Use Permit Process Guide

This item was tabled until the December 12, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Sterett reported that the Selectmen did not act on Kerry Ann McHugh's application to become an alternate member of the Commission, but tabled the application until its next meeting following discussion of the roles and expectations for alternates on all boards and commissions.

Minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting

Mr. Schaefer moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting as written. Mr. Sterett seconded and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kaminski adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Sarah Kaminski, Chairperson

Merinel Williams, Town Clerk