

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2019

PRESENT: David Lage, Chairman, John Veaser, Bert Hamill, Scott Butcher

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Planning Board Discussion: The Board met with Planning Board Chairman John Schaumloffel to discuss the upcoming budget for FY2020 and what priorities the Planning Board should focus on. BOS Chairman Lage stated the budget process should follow a zero-based budget process that should provide justification for each item in the budget, not just carry over expenditures from the previous year's budget. PB Chairman Schaumloffel discussed some potential future costs such as incentives for developers to fully complete road construction on projects. He also indicated that there may be a cost to the Planning Board for post-construction inspections of projects.

The discussion turned to the development or definition of a commercial district in New Ipswich to help attract new businesses. BOS Chairman Lage suggested that some of the town owned land near the old landfill and transfer station might be a good candidate for a commercial district. Selectman Hamill said that a designated commercial district would allow businesses to develop a parcel by right and not require the approval by the Zoning Board of Adjustment on a case-by-case basis. Selectman Veaser stated that a commercial or industrial district would also help keep commercial and industrial buildings away from the center of town and affect aesthetics. PB Chairman Schaumloffel said any creation of a commercial district would mean updating the master plan, the zoning maps and require changes in zoning ordinances. That may require the services of the Southwest Regional Planning Commission or an outside consultant and impact the Planning Board's budget. BOS Chairman Lage suggested that members of the Planning Board could do some of that work.

PB Chairman Schaumloffel said there is interest in updating the subdivision regulations to ensure better monitoring of completion of projects and adherence to regulations and conditions. There was some discussion as to what was the responsibility of the Planning Board versus what was the responsibility of the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer. BOS Chairman Lage brought up a situation where the subdivision regulations require underground utilities but there is one in town that has overhead wires and he wondered why this wasn't addressed by someone. PB Chairman Schaumloffel said there was a void in enforcement. BOS Chairman Lage suggested that the Planning Board send a letter to the utility companies informing them that overhead wires are not allowed in new subdivision projects as one way to prevent it from happening.

PB Chairman Schaumloffel asked if there were any other areas that the Selectmen would like the Planning Board to focus on for the upcoming year. BOS Chairman Lage said that the Selectmen had discussed looking at ways to enhance the downtown area. There had been past discussions

with PlanNH and the UNH Cooperative Extension to generate ideas on what can be done to assist the town in that effort. He also suggested that there may be some benefit at getting some of the Boards together for a discussion on what direction to take and how to approach it.

Heart Safe Community Presentation: At Fire Chief Lund's request, the Board decided to schedule the presentation for New Ipswich's Heart Safe Community status from the State of NH for October 29th.

Cemetery Discussion: The Board discussed the status of the dispute between that State of NH and the town regarding the access easement at the Smithville Cemetery for dam maintenance and repairs. The Town Administrator was instructed to get an update from Town Counsel.

At 6:35 p.m. Selectman Veaser made a motion to enter into a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Selectman Hamill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 8:06 p.m. Selectman Veaser made a motion to return to public session. Selectman Hamill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Selectman Veaser made a motion to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Selectman Hamill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Selectmen voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Butcher, Town Administrator

Minutes approved by:
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



David S. Lage, Chairman



John Veaser



Bert Hamill