

January 9, 2018 Planning Board

Present were: Regular Members Tom McCue, Lori Langlois, Greg Estrella, Richard Cassidy, Naomi Levesque, Christina Lefebvre, and Ex-Officio Member Bryan Chevarie.

Members Aline Boucher, Helene Rayborn, and Ex-Officio Member Lucie Remillard were excused for the evening.

Others Present: Pamela Laflamme, Community Development Director

Public Comments – No one spoke

Approval of December Minutes

Ms. Langlois made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mr. Estrella. So moved, the motion carried.

Lot Mergers

Map 130-Lots 352 & 353

Map 130-Lot 352 (399 Champlain Street) was tax deeded in May, 2017. There is a single-family home located on this .09 acre parcel. The City also owns Map 130-Lot 353, which abuts 399 Champlain Street and is a vacant plot of land consisting of 0.14 acres. The vacant lot will be merged into Map 130-Lot 352 and will retain the 399 Champlain Street address. This merging of lots will be reflected in the 2018 tax year.

Ms. Levesque made a motion to approve the merging of Map 130-Lots 352 & 353, seconded by Ms. Langlois. All in favor, the motion carried.

Map 111-Lots 55 & 60

Map 111-Lot 55 is the site of a single family home and Map 111-Lot 60 is a vacant 0.11 acre lot. The vacant parcel will be merged into the lot that the residence is located upon. The entirety of the newly-merged parcel will have an address of 110 Harding Street. This merging of lots will be reflected in the 2018 tax year.

Ms. Langlois made a motion to approve the merging of Map 111-Lots 55 & 60, seconded by Mr. Estrella. All in favor, the motion carried.

Project Updates

Ms. Laflamme explained to the group that the City has selected a designer and builder for the new skatepark. Spohn Ranch Skateparks of Los Angeles, California was awarded the project by City Council at their January 2, 2018 meeting. Spohn Ranch boasts an extremely impressive portfolio of projects and awards. Additionally, they have experience with

developing skateparks in New England. Mr. Estrella confirmed the location of the proposed park – on the corner of Hutchins Street and Mason Street. The City will now enter contract negotiations to finalize the deal with Spohn Ranch. Ms. Laflamme noted that the Kiwanis Club has donated helmets and funds for safety equipment. The Recreation Department will be in charge of lending these items to the public in the summer months. The group discussed similar parks that have been constructed in the state. Public Works has been involved in the planning stage of the development in order to ensure that maintenance costs will be kept low. A community meeting will be held in the upcoming months and construction is planned to be completed by the end of August.

A steering committee for the food co-op has been established. A project manager is currently working on a pro bono basis. A grant is anticipated to be submitted to the USDA next month for this project. Additionally, Board member Ms. Lefebvre is a member of this committee and Chair McCue is lending his legal expertise to the endeavor.

There are miscellaneous requests for proposals (RFP) and requests for qualifications (RFQ) that have been posted. These projects include heated streets in the downtown area, the elevator or chair lift upgrade for City Hall, installing LED bulbs in street lights for energy and cost efficiency, and a study examining the costs and benefits of the fire department taking on additional EMS duties.

The City is accepting sealed bids for two vacant parcels of land – A 0.65 acre parcel on Cates Hill Road and a 6.8 acre parcel on Jericho Road. These bids will remain open until January 25th, 2018 at 2:00 pm.

Local schools plan to begin a joint-community engagement process in the upcoming months. The intent will be to discuss the future of education in the Androscoggin Valley.

Other – No one spoke

Public Comments – No one spoke

Member Comments

Mr. Estrella asked when HEB Engineers will be presenting details of the River Walk project to the Planning Board. Ms. Laflamme noted that she expects them to appear before the Board before spring.

The group briefly discussed several events and happenings that they have heard are in the planning stages. More detailed discussions will follow as these activities develop within the community.

Planner Comments – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Langlois, moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Levesque. All in favor, the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bryan Chevarie