

August 5, 2019 Planning Board

Present were: Regular Members Tom McCue, Lori Langlois, Greg Estrella, Richard Cassidy and Christina Lefebvre; Ex-Officio Member Lucie Remillard; and Alternate Member Lane Strahan.

Regular Members Helene Rayborn, Naomi Levesque; Alternate Members Aline Boucher, Susanne Wasileski, and Tony Valliere; and Ex-Officio Member Bryan Chevarie were excused.

Others Present: Pamela Laflamme, Community Development Director and Lise Barrette.

Public Comments

None

Approval of July Minutes

At the bottom of page two where it says 'Mr Grenier', it's to be changed to 'Eric'. On page three, in the sixth paragraph where it says 'Ms. Levesque asked about playground' it's to be changed to Ms. Rayborn. Mr. Cassidy made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2019 meeting with the corrections. Mr. Estrella seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

Project Updates

Ms. Laflamme wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming meetings:

There will be a second Community Workshop at the White Mountain Community College on Wednesday September 11th. Camoin Associates will be presenting. This will be the day after the next Planning Board meeting which will be on the 10th because of Labor Day. The same people who ran the meeting we had in April will be presenting on that night. A draft Strategy will be shared, reviewed and discussed. Any recommendations will be taken back and the plan will be adjusted. They will return at a later date with any updates.

On Wednesday September 4th, UNH will be holding a Facilitator Training to get ready for the Community Profile workshop in October. The location has changed to the High School. It will start at 5pm. If anyone is interested please let Pam know.

The Brown School Committee will be meeting on Thursday, August 8th, from 5 to 6pm, in the City Hall conference room. They will be looking at the tax card, blueprint, flood plain and they will discuss the next steps.

The Federal Resource Roundtable held on July 24th was very interesting and offered lots of data. There were many federal agencies represented. There was a representative from the General Services Administration who offered Ms. Laflamme leads on purchasing IT equipment through them. Ms. Laflamme gave a presentation which included the history of

Berlin, The Community Profile project, Camoin Associates, and the school funding issue. She also got a chance to speak to the EPA on a project and got some advice.

The Skate Park opening went well. Many kids were there and are currently using it.

The Community Profile will be held on Friday, October 4th and Saturday, October 5th, the location has changed to the High School. Friday night will start at 5pm with a community dinner. Coffee will be served on the morning of the 5th. Ms. Laflamme would like to see as many members from the board as possible. It's an important meeting for the Planning Board. Reminders will be sent out. She is working on transportation, and child care to be offered. Ms. Strahan asked if we will live stream it? This can be done. Ms. Lefebvre shared that Brian might be able to do this.

At the upcoming Wingzilla event held at the Heritage park in September, we plan to have a 'Why We Love Berlin' board up for people to jot down their comments.

We now have an Instagram official page called Building a Better Berlin. Ms. Laflamme is hoping people will go out and find things they love about Berlin, take pictures and post them on Instagram with #BuildingBetterBerlin. Ms. Lefebvre asked if we can invite others to this page. Ms. Laflamme said it's a public page but she will double check the settings. Ms. Lefebvre asked how it will be handled if people start to post their businesses. Ms. Laflamme said it was decided that it's open to people to post what they want, it's their own interpretation of what Building a Better Berlin is.

The Riverwalk project was discussed. HEB has put together a schedule showing how the city can start the project in October 2019. The NHDOT has taken it under advisement and we are waiting to hear from them. They NHDOT runs by a Federal fiscal year which starts in October. They currently have the start date for October 2020, yet we wouldn't be able to start construction till 2021.

Other

None

Public Comments

None

Member Comments

Mr. Estrella brought up that in the minutes of the last meeting it was said that Mr. Eric Grenier shared his dislike of black lettering for the City of Berlin sign. He wanted to know if he said what he would do to the letters. Would he darken them? Ms. Laflamme shared that Ms. Sylvia Poulin had suggested outlining the letters in black. Ms. Laflamme said she will talk to the Public Works about this.

Mr. Cassidy mentioned that the new trees around Twelfth Street are drying out and not getting watered. They are looking withered.

Ms. Strahan asked about the need for building permits for a structure that is preexisting and for a fence. Yes one is needed but it should be a simple permit for a structure that is pre-existing and she will also need one for a new fence. Ms. Laflamme explained that the fence can be placed up to the property line but she suggests that it's done at least one foot from the property line if it's against an abutting neighbor to allow for any type of repairs needed in the future. As long as it's no taller than six feet, it doesn't need to go the zoning board.

Ms. Strahan also asked about whether a Driveway Permit is needed if it's just for resurfacing. Yes, it would be approved quickly through the Public Works Director who starts on Monday, and there is a \$10 fee.

Ms. Strahan asked about her building on Main Street and if it would be an issue to change their intention to open a different business from the previously intended food establishment. Ms. Laflamme said there is no need for a new site plan as the change is not significant enough.

Ms. Laflamme shared that Sylvia Poulin of the Main Street Program has sold the old Wang's Restaurant building on Main Street. A gentlemen who works at the prison is planning to open up a Mexican restaurant in the spring.

The old WREN building on Main Street has sold to the Family Resource Center in Gorham. It will be their second location. Ms. Remillard explained that they are thinking of renting space out. Ms. Lefebvre, from Assemble, mentioned how they need a storefront to sell art works. It will be looked into.

Mr. Cassidy asked about the status of the old movie theater since the collapse of the roof. There was discussion about HEB, who were supposed to take a look at it last week for a formal assessment.

Planner Comments

None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Lefebvre made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McCue. All in favor, the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:15pm.

The next Planning Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lise Barrette