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## NORTON PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2021

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The Planning Board Meeting of August 10, 2021 was called to order at the Norton Media Center via Hybrid Participation on ZOOM and in person at 7:15 p.m. by Mr. Timothy Griffin, Chairman. Members present were, Mr. Allen Bouley and Mr. Scott Bichan. Mr. Kevin O'Neil and Mr. Steven Hornsby participated remotely via ZOOM also in attendance was Paul DiGiuseppe. Absent are Mr. Wayne Graf and Mrs. Julie Oakley.

Mr. Griffin explained what a Hybrid meeting was and how it was going to be used in this meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**SP-494: 0 Rear Eddy Street. Application for a Special Permit for a common driveway, duplexes, and development in Wetland Protection District. Owner/Applicant: Sharlene Widak-Smith. Continued from July 14, 2020, July 28, August 25, 2020, September 15, 2020, September 29, 2020, October 6, 2020, October 27, 2020, November 17, 2020, December 1, 2020, December 15, 2020, January 5, 2021, February 2, 2021, February 23, 2021, March 23, 2021, April 6, 2021, April 27, 2021, June 8, 2021 & July 13, 2021.**

Mr. Widak states that he is going to meet with the Conservation Commission at the end of August and will show a finalized Stormwater Management Plan. He will come back to the Planning Board when the plan is finalized with the Conservation Commission. Mr. Griffin asks if continuing the application to September 14, 2021 will be enough time. Mr. Widak says yes.

**Mr. Hornsby motions to continue the meeting to September 14, 2021 and Mr. Bichan seconds the motion. Roll Call Mr. Bichan Yes, Mr. Bouley Yes, Mr. Hornsby Yes, Mr. O'Neil Yes, and Mr. Griffin Yes. The Motion Passes.**

### **DISCUSSION - Master Plan**

Mr. DiGiuseppe updates the board that the comments previously made by the Board were sent to SRPEDD for editing. Mr. Griffin states the section is going to mostly be a team effort of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

Goal 4-1: Preserve Open Space. Mr. Griffin asks what the difference is between permanently protected land and General Law Chapter 61. For 4.1.1 Continue to protect Conservation Lands managed by the Conservation Commission, Mr. O'Neil states that there should be a correction

on the inclusion of a certain property. For 4.1.2 Consider adopting the Community Preservation Act to fund the acquisition of open space and community development projects, Mr. Bichan asks if the property tax surcharge an incremental tax surcharge or is it an allocation to the existing property cases. Mr. DiGiuseppe states it would be additional revenue. Mr. Bichan asks if this would be required if this this is accepted by the Town Meeting. Mr. DiGiuseppe states yes. Mr. Griffin states it would also need a local ballot.

Goal 4.2 is to improve access to natural areas, parks, and recreation facilities. The Board asks for certain properties to be included. For 4.2.1 Implement the Norton Bike Path and 4.2.2 Create safe routes to jog and walk along the Reservoir, Mr. Christopher Keyes updates to Board about the Rail Trail.

For 5.1.3 Apply for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Funding to implement stormwater management strategies identified by the 2018 Norton MVP plan, the Board suggested additional partners to help implement.

Goal 5.3.2 Encourage collaboration and coordination between the Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, and the Historical Society through activities such as creating a Historic Preservation Plan and enforcing the Demolition Delay Bylaw. Mr. O'Neil suggests the Select Board as they could be having a leadership role in what they're trying to accomplish.

6-1: Replace, modernize, and improve aging Town buildings. Mr. O'Neil suggests having the Select Board be one of the parties responsible for this goal. Mr. O'Neil suggests updating the statistics of the wells from 2007.

6.1.3: Evaluate and implement an ADA transition plan for Town-owned buildings and facilities. Board members recommend additional parties.

6.2.2: Expand infrastructure, such as wastewater lines, to key locations to jump start economic development. Mr. Griffin states that this has been in progress on Main Street. Mr. Bichan suggests adding the Economic Development Committee to the list of responsible parties. Mr. O'Neil suggests adding natural resources to the goal title to protect the wetland and watershed area as part of the expansion.

Strategy 7.1.1: Resolve the alignment of the Village Green (intersection of Routes 123 and 140) to reduce congestion and complement growth envisioned for the new Village Center Core (VCC) district. Mr. Griffin suggest keeping in all the alternatives to show the full context of Alternatives B and C. Strategy 7.1.5: Investigate the creation of a traffic safety committee that would regularly meet to review documented safety issues, certain types of proposed developments and other transportation related issues. Mr. Keyes notes the largest traffic safety issue is speeding in the town of Norton. Mr. Griffin asks if the Highway Department should be included. Mr. Bichan suggests putting the Select Board on the strategy as well.

Strategy 7.2.1: Conduct Road Safety Audits (RSA) on state-owned roadways and intersections that have a high number of crashes. Mr. Griffin inquires how this would be paid for. Strategy 7.2.2: Implement sidewalk and intersection improvements as identified by the Route 140

Corridor Plan between the Route 123 intersection and Mansfield. Mr. Griffin asks if anything has been done to act upon this plan. Mr. DiGiuseppe states there hasn't and it is a good opportunity to take action upon a plan.

Strategy 7.3.1: Identify places along the flag-stop system for signage, benches, and shelters. Same comment as 7.2.3. Mr. Griffin asks if Gatra would fund it. Mr. DiGiuseppe states it could be funded or we would have to do it. Mr. O'Neil suggests having a local success story with this strategy.

Mr. Bichan asks if this would have to be another warrant to the Town Meeting. Mr. DiGiuseppe states it is and that the Board will have to look for how to manage the process. Mr. Bouley suggests getting a grant writer for some of the goals to help get some direction on these goals.

### **Adjournment**

**The motion to adjourn the August 10, 2021 meeting was done by Mr. Bouley and seconded by Mr. Bichan. Roll Call Mr. Bichan Yes, Mr. Bouley Yes, Mr. Hornsby Yes, Mr. O'Neil Yes, and Mr. Griffin Yes. The Motion Passes. The Planning board Meeting from August 10, 2021 was adjourned at 9:29pm.**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Bryan Carmichael, Department of Planning and Economic Development Administrative Assistant.

Minutes Approved on: 2/1/2022

Signature Paul D. Fusco