

**GROTON PLANNING BOARD  
MARCH 25, 2004  
MINUTES**

Chairman Barringer called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall

Members present: Barringer, Degen, Clements, Eliot, and Lewis

Members absent: Perkins and Wilson

**MEETING WITH HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The Planning Board met with Alvin Collins and Shirley Wishart of the Historical Commission to discuss Scenic Roads and the implementation of the Scenic Roads by-law, adopted in 1974 as a general by-law.

Mr. Collins said the Historical Commission is looking to preserve the historical aspects of Groton including the views from public ways. He said the Town of Weston has a good Scenic Roads by-law with more detail and specifications. Groton's 1974 by-law includes all roads that are not numbered routes. He asked if this means all new subdivision roads are considered "scenic" under this definition. Weston's Scenic Roads By-law contains a list of roads considered scenic.

Member Degen suggested making it part of the Zoning By-law with the Building Inspector or an independent zoning enforcement official in charge of administration.

Members of the Board agreed that the Weston by-law is a good model. The Board agreed to work with the Board of Selectmen, Highway Surveyor and the Historical Commission to propose changes to the by-law.

The motion was made by Degen to send a letter of support to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Historical Commission's efforts to update the Scenic Roads By-law. *The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

**COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The Board received comments from the Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Water Department on the Comprehensive Master Plan implementation schedule. The Board will incorporate the comments and post the implementation plan on the Town's web site.

**CONTRACT WITH MARK BOBROWSKI**

The Board reviewed the proposed contract with Mark Bobrowski and would like to work on hilltop and slope provisions in addition to scenic corridors and accessory apartments. The Board will discuss the contract with Mr. Bobrowski at its April 1, 2004 meeting.

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FORUM**

Planning Administrator Michelle Collette reported that she and Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney attended a workshop on stormwater management on March 24, 2004. The Earth Removal Advisory Committee would like to sponsor an educational forum for Town Departments. The Middlesex Conservation District staff will present information on stormwater management and best management practices. The Board agreed that it would be interested in participating in such a forum.

**MEETING WITH HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION**

The Board met with Daniel Barton, Chairman of the Historic Districts Commission (HDC), to discuss alternative streetlights. Mr. Barton said the Selectmen asked the HDC to recommend a decorative street light for installation at by MassHighway as part of the Four Corners intersection improvement plan. Mr. Barton said the Selectmen wanted the HDC's guidance because similar fixtures may be used in the Historic District in the future if utilities are placed underground. Mr. Barton said he did not want to respond to the Selectmen's request without first consulting with the Planning Board. He submitted copies of lighting standards from other communities such as Action and Concord.

Member Lewis stressed that the Groton Electric Light Department (GELD) must be involved in any discussion about

streetlights.

Member Eliot said the decorative lights installed in Devens are very attractive. Other Board members agreed.

Chairman Barringer said it is important to select a fixture that is shielded so it does not create glare toward the sky.

Board members were enthusiastic about working with the HDC and GELD to develop lighting standards. The Board will continue the discussion at its meeting on April 1, 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
Planning Administrator