

**GROTON PLANNING BOARD
JANUARY 21, 2010
MINUTES**

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

Members present: Capes, Barringer, Burke, Giger, Hess, Perkins, and Wilson

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL PERMIT, NASHOBA HOMES, 698 TOWNSEND RD

The Board continued the public hearing to consider the special permit applications submitted by Nashoba Homes to construct four units of housing under the provisions of Section 218-27B Subsidized Elderly Housing.

The Board received a letter dated January 19, 2010 from Attorney Robert Collins addressing several legal issues raised at the public hearing on December 19, 2009. The Board will forward the letter to Town Counsel David Doneski for an opinion.

The Board voted unanimously to continue the public hearings on February 11, 2010 at 8:30 PM.

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

The Board met with Judi Barrett and Angela Insinger of Community Opportunities Group (COG) to discuss the update of the Comprehensive Master Plan. Town Manager Mark Haddad signed the contract with COG on January 20, 2010.

Ms. Barrett presented a draft schedule of Phase I for the Board's consideration. She said she knows the Town's priority is the Economic Development element which should be completed by the end of June. Sustainability, Open Space and Cultural Resources will be done at the same time. There will be a hiatus in August. The housing, Community Services and Land Use elements will be done in the fall. Transportation will be addressed in June and July. The first public forum will be held in the spring of 2010 and the second public forum will be held in January 2011.

The Board discussed establishing volunteer working groups for each element. Ms. Barrett said COG would be able to work with volunteer groups in a variety of ways.

Craig Auman of the Conservation Commission noted that the Open Space and Recreation Plan must be completed for submission to the Division of Conservation Services. Ms. Barrett said she would meet with the Conservation Commission soon to discuss the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Member Hess said it is important to look at each element of the plan through the lense of sustainability. Ms. Barrett said she understood, but each element of the plan has its own set of deliverables. Each of the working groups should have a voice. None of the elements are stand-alone elements – they are all interrelated.

Steve Webber said sustainability should be all-encompassing. Member Perkins stated that the question of including sustainability in all aspects is a matter of opinion. There may be others who have a different perspective.

Ms. Barrett said suggested that the Board recruit volunteers to serve on the working groups. The Board could sponsor stakeholder and neighborhood meetings to address all the elements of the plan.

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The Board decided to recruit volunteers to serve on Advisory Groups for each of the elements of the plan. The volunteer form will ask people to select their top three choices. The Board will appoint about 5-7 volunteers for each group. Volunteers will be recruited by the notice in the newspaper, the Town's website, posters, and letters to Town departments.

Member Giger suggested that the Planning Board and Sustainability Commission have a member on each of the groups. The Board agreed.

Ms. Barrett said the Board may want to consider combining some elements, if necessary. She said it is critical to integrate staff as a resource.

COG will begin conducting interviews of stakeholders as individuals or in small groups. The Board will identify who should be interviewed and assist with scheduling.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Land use Director/Town Planner