

# Minutes

## Pittsfield Planning Board

### January 28, 2019

The Pittsfield Planning Board met on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Pittsfield Municipal Building, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, Maine.

Members Present: Jan Laux, Vaughan Woodruff, Royce Sposato, Brent Newhouse, Anna Bockis, Simone Engelhardt, Ron Watson, and Tom Cote. Members Absent: Morris Pollard. Also Present: Dr. William Cunningham and Building Inspector Steve Seekins.

1. Chair **Jan Laux** opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Jan Laux advised that Royce Sposato, due to an oversight in planning meetings, he would not be allowed to vote until he is re-appointed by the Town Council.

2. **Old Business: None**

3. **Public Hearing: None**

4. **New Business:**

a. **Election of Planning Board Officers:** Chair and Vice Chair.

**Brent Newhouse** nominated **Jan Laux** as Chair, seconded by **Tom Cote**.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Royce Sposato Abstained

**Simone Engelhardt** nominated **Royce Sposato** as Vice Chair, subject to Council Appointment, seconded by **Tom Cote**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Royce Sposato Abstained

No other nominations were made.

b. **Adoption of Minutes:** of the Meeting of December 10, 2018.

Motion by **Tom Cote** seconded by **Anna Bockis** to adopt the minutes of December 10, 2018.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**

Royce Sposato Abstained

c. **Site Plan Review** for the Fendler Park Hand Carry Boat Launch at Tax Map 28  
Lot 2 on Seabasticook Street

**Jan Laux** opened the discussion on the proposed launch facility. Dr. William Cunningham Chairman of the Bicentennial Boat Launch Committee gave a description of the project. Dr. Cunningham advised that Kleinschmidt Associates have volunteered their time to design the facility. Jan Laux asked if the Board had questions after reading the Application/Finding of Facts document. **Anna Bockis** asked if there was a code issue with the storage shelter being too closed to the water and if there were plans to have portable toilets at the site. Dr. Cunningham advised there is an issue with the location. The plan is to either relocate the shelter or get permission from the Maine DEP to allow an acceptance. Dr. Cunningham explained there is a suitable location available for the shelter if one 11-foot tree is relocated. This location would be at the correct setback from the water. Dr. Cunningham stated there are no plans at the present for portable toilets. Dr. Cunningham advised he plans to post information on the kiosk as to the locations of public facilities in town. Dr. Cunningham stated he recommends relocating the shelter over waiting for a response from the DEP. **Simone Engelhardt** suggested putting a used needle/syringe / sharps collection container on the site. **Jan Laux** explained that the plan is to consider issuing approval conditional on receiving the permits listed on page 13B of the Application/Finding of Facts document. At this point the Application/Finding of Facts document was reviewed. The board voted that a public hearing or a site visit was not needed. All requests for waivers listed in the Application/Finding of Facts document were granted by the Board members. **Brent Newhouse** questioned what town's liability would be if someone were to be injured when using the launch area. Dr. Cunningham referred him the information from the town's insurance company in exhibit 9 and the signage planned in section 8 of the Application/Finding of Facts documents.

Motion by **Simone Engelhardt** and seconded by **Tom Cote** that the application be approved subject to conditions of page 13B-19 of the Application/Finding of Facts documents.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**  
(Less Royce Sposato)

**5. Other items that come before the Board:**

**Jan Laux** stated he would like to have joint meeting between the Planning Board and the Town Council to discuss the future of Pittsfield. The discussion could address things to do to attract people and businesses to town. Should the code be less restrictive? **Jan Laux** stated from being on the Bicentennial Committee he received a lot of good ideas. However, there is one group that they have not heard from, and that is the Town Council. **Ron Watson** stated there are a lot of little things in the ordinance that should be looked at that may discourage businesses and people from coming to town. **Royce Sposato** spoke of the Comprehensive Plan process where public quorums were held. He felt the public's wants would be known from the meetings. **Simone Engelhardt** suggested that people are not always aware of when meetings are. **Simone Engelhardt** suggested the town consider an electronic sign to announce meetings. **Vaughan Woodruff** stated we have a lot of people with creative ideas, however we don't supply the means to receive these ideas. These ideas are often shot down. **Vaughan Woodruff** stated he is proposing training that would pacifically focuses on training for the Planning Board members and the Council members on dealing with the public and running meetings that would encourage input from the public.

**6. Adjournment:**

Motion by **Simone Engelhardt** and seconded by **Anna Bockis** that the meeting be adjourned.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE**  
(Less Royce Sposato)

Respectfully submitted by: Steve Seekins, Building Inspector