

Minutes

Pittsfield Planning Board

Meeting of February 10, 2020

The Pittsfield Planning Board met on February 10, 2020 at the Council Chambers at the Pittsfield Municipal Building, 112 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, Maine.

Members present were: Jan Laux, Anna Bockis, Royce Sposato, Brent Newhouse, Ron Watson, Morris Pollard, Tom Cote, and Stanley Short. Members Absent: Simone Engelhardt. Also present Peter Logiodice, Jeff McBurnie and Rob Folsom of Casella Organics, Seth Edwards of Somerset Hay Company, Mayor Heather Donahue, Douglas Donahue, Chis Pelletier of Town Water and Sewer district and Building Inspector Steve Seekins.

1. Chair **Jan Laux** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Alternate member **Ron Watson** was authorized to vote due to the absence **Simone Engelhardt**
3. **Adoption of the Minutes:** of the Meeting of January 13, 2020.

Motion by **Tom Cote** and seconded by **Ron Watson** to adopt the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

4. **Public Hearing: None**
5. **Old Business:**

- a. Presentation by Rob Folsom and Jeff McBurnie of Casella Organics on sludge products. Discussion on updating the Sludge Management Ordinances. Form a committee to study and make recommendations. Set a date for the first meeting. *Planning Board Members please review chapters 9B and 9C of the town ordinances in advance of the meeting.*

Chair **Jan Laux** open the discussion by asking Steve Seekins to introduce Ron Folsom and Jeff McBurnie of Casella Organics. For details of their presentation please see the town website www.pittsfield.org and click on Town Meeting Videos to listen to the video of this Planning Board Meeting. Steve Seekins advised he plans on asking Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) to speak at the next meeting.

It was decided to form a work group to make recommendations for updating the sludge ordinance. Members of this group were determined to be **Tom Cote, Anna Bockis, Morris Pollard,** and Chris Pelletier

- b. Review the items of pages 137 and 138 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan and provided written recommendations as requested by Chair **Jan Laux** at the January meeting.

Chair **Jan Laux** opened the discussion by advising the Town Council and the Planning Board will have a couple of joint work session on the comprehensive plan. **Jan Laux** stated because of that we may want hold off on this item. **Jan Laux** suggests holding a separate session to come up with a series of 2 to 4 questions for a community discussion. **Jan Laux** stated these community meeting should be held at another location so people attending would not be intimidated by the camera recordings of this room. **Jan Laux** suggested the meeting discussion leader should have no emotional feeling for the town. The purpose being to determine what kind of community we want to have in 5-10-15-20 years. Steve Seekins advised **Jan Laux** that he had invited board members at the last meeting to supply written recommendations for changes to the comprehensive plan. **Royce Sposato** asked what was the ultimate goal. **Jan Laux** replied the ultimate goal was to update the plan. **Ron Watson** advised that he had a meeting with Alan Plummer one of the State Representatives for the American Tiny Homes Association. Alan Plummer stated he would be glad to set down with us and help draft an ordinance for tiny

homes. **Ron Watson** states there is bill currently in the state house that would address foundations for tiny homes. Currently there is no requirements for moveable tiny homes.

6. New Business:

- a. Discussion on Cianbro's request for traffic directional signs. Information will be provided at the meeting. Consider forming a committee recommend changes to the sign ordinance.

It was decided to form a work group to make recommendation for an updating for the sign ordinance. Members of this group were determined to be **Ron Watson, Brent Newhouse, Stanley Short and Jan Laux.** **Jan Laux** stated he has contacted Harold Sherwood of Cianbro to set a meeting with him and the work group.

At this time **Jan Laux** asked the members if the tiny homes discussion could be informally tabled until we find out what state rules are developed. There were no objections.

7. Discussion items:

Jan Laux stated a discussion on the type of town Pittsfield should become. **Jan Laux** stated it is unlikely that a big business would come to town. The future would be in housing and attracting people to live here. It was discussed that MUBEC building codes could be discouraging people from building here. Steve Seekins advised that MUBEC is now required in all towns. Enforcement is only required in towns of over 4000 people. However, contactors/builders are required to build to the MUBEC codes. **Morris Pollard** stated that the comprehensive plan discourages development in rural areas. **Morris Pollard** states that is an issue to growth. **Morris Pollard** stated maybe the town could use the town of Hermon as an example to follow. **Jan Laux** summed up by stating Pittsfield needs to do something that would be model that would attract people and address the needs of older people. **Tom Cote** pointed out that the need for farmland is less now that in the past. **Ron Watson** stated he believes there is still a need for farm land and stated one way to attract people is to have broad band/high speed internet available in rural areas. This would enable people to work from their home.

Buildings in poor repair were discussed. Steve Seekins advised the town plans to take two owners to court. Steve Seekins advised the building on the corner of Peltoma and Lancey was now tax acquired property. Brent Newhouse estimated it would cost \$10, 000 to tear it down.

8. Adjournment:

Motion by **Anna Bockis** seconded by **Tom Cote** to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Respectfully submitted by: Steve Seekins, Building Inspector

Minutes are a synopsis of a meeting. For more detail, please go to www.pittsfield.org and click on Town Meeting Videos to listen to videos of Planning Board Meetings and other Board/Committee Meetings.