

MEETING MINUTES

Pittsfield Planning Board

May 29, 2012

The Pittsfield Planning Board met on Monday, May 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Pittsfield Municipal Building to consider the following agenda.

PRESENT: Kelly Flanigan, Fred Raynes, Royce Sposato, Brent Newhouse and Alan Dunphy.
ABSENT: Walter Reuter, Chris Cookson, and Jack Wright. **Also Present:** Town Manager Kathryn Ruth, Building Inspector Steve Seekins and Chris Huck of KVCOG

1. Chairman **Alan Dunphy** opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
2. Motion by **Royce Sposato** and seconded by **Kelley Flanigan** to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of May 14, 2012 as amended to add Mike Gray's comment on the Industrial Park.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. **PUBLIC HEARING: None**

4. **OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:**

- a. Comprehensive Plan work session covering the Transportation Resources section of the plan.

Alan Dunphy led the discussion on the revisions the Planning Board felt were necessary for this section of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Board reviewed the draft Transportation Resources section and the Transportation Resources Recommendations handout in detail page by page. The highlights of the discussion are listed below:

Transportation Resources:

The Town Manager briefly presented the draft of the Transportation Resources section which she and Chris Huck updated.

KVCOG Planning Director Chris Huck indicated that he would comment on the recommendations that were added to the plan's updated Transportation section to determine if the Planning Board would like to add these recommendations to the official Recommendations for Strategies section.

Page 1-2: Chris Huck asked if the Planning Board agreed that the Somerset Plaza needs more improvement as noted in the draft. The Planning Board concurred. The Town Manager explained that the cross walk was installed as recommended in the plan, however, it is not highly visible. The Town then added fluorescent beads to the cross walk when it is painted each year, however, it still is not very visible. It was agreed that we need to look at this area to determine further improvements such as signing or other recommendations due to the congestion and high traffic flow.

Page 2: Chris Huck asked if the Planning Board wanted to stripe and mark a bike and walking lane on one side of Industrial Park Street as long as there is sufficient room for truck traffic? There was considerable discussion on this matter. The Town Manager explained that there are many people walking along the Industrial Street route for exercise. Back when she arrived, there was a faded line on the side of the road. There are pros and cons to having a bike and walking lane on this road, which were debated. It was agreed that the Town would research this area and consult with MDOT regarding whether a lane would be recommended for that roadway. There are concerns for safety, liability and whether people should be walking on a busy industrial street, although the citizens currently utilize the road extensively and have for decades.

Page 3: The lack of signalized lights at the Webb Road and Snakeroot Road railroad crossings was discussed. The Town Manager noted the history of the Webb Road signal light that had finally made it to the designated project stage in the MDOT Capital Plan in the early 2000's, only to be deleted completely when the State budget experienced problems with the weak economy in 2009. The Town continues to submit these project requests and plans to do so in the future to promote the safety of the traveling public on those roads.

Page 5: Chris Huck asked if due to the airport discussion on pages 3-5, the Planning Board should add a recommendation to the Transportation Strategies for a new Airport Master Plan. This recommendation is listed on the Town's Capital Plan with MDOT and it was noted that it would be a good idea to do so.

Page 8: The roads are reviewed every four years and this revision will be made.

Page 9: Chris Huck and Kathryn Ruth answered questions on the bridge inventory.

Page 10: It was determined that access management needs review. The Town has detailed access management standards in several ordinances, some of which is confusing. MDOT now has developed standards for state roads. The Town needs to review the standards and determine if we need changes as well as determine which standards will be used on State roads and local roads. This will be a strategy for transportation. Chris Huck recommended that these changes be made at the time of other changes to the zoning ordinance.

Transportation Resources Recommendations:

The Planning Board then reviewed the Economic Resource Recommendations from the 1997 Plan and 2007 Update to update the Recommendations as follows:

Transportation System:

Policies:

A. It is the policy of the Town to consciously care for a safe and convenient intermodal transportation system in the most cost effective manner within the budgetary constraints of the Town, in which awareness, respect, and courtesy are fostered among all users.

Pedestrian Transportation:

Strategy #4: The Town Manager and the Town Council shall petition MDOT for the following improvements:

- Lower the speed limit on Industrial Park Street. Add: The speed limit in the Industrial Park will be reviewed with a recommendation made to MDOT for consideration.
- Install walk lights at the intersection of Hunnewell Avenue and Main Street. Deleted the reference to Main and Somerset Avenue as these lights were installed when the MDOT Traffic Signal project was undertaken and completed in 2003 – 2005.
- Enhance/upgrade the cross walk between the Somerset Plaza and the Industrial Park.

Bicycling:

Strategy #3: Bicycle lanes should be installed along the following roads if found to be feasible after study: Main, Somerset, Hunnewell, North Main and Industrial Park Street. Timeline: 1-5 years. Deleted references to former road names of Park, Grove and South (Main).

Strategy #4: Deleted strategy as improvements that could be made to Main and Somerset have been made.

Strategy #5 becomes Strategy #4: The Town Council shall petition MDOT and Pan Am Railroad to improve the downtown rail crossing. Timeline: 1-5 years.

Rail and Port Facilities:

Change all references from Maine Central Railroad to Pan Am Railroad.

Strategy #2: Deleted strategy as it was accomplished to the best of the Town's ability.

Airport:

Summary: The Pittsfield airport is an important asset for the Town and the region. A master airport plan was completed in 1997 and has been implemented. An update of the Master Plan is required.

Road Maintenance:

Summary: The municipal road system needs to be constantly maintained to keep roads in safe condition. An effective and adequately funded road budget within the budgetary constraints of the Town will be a priority for the Town.

Other Items to be added as recommendations:

1. The crosswalk at Somerset Plaza/Industrial Park needs more improvement.
2. The Town will research the feasibility of a bike and walk lane along Industrial Park Street.
3. The Town will apply for grant funding to update the Airport Master Plan

4. State Roads which are recommended for improvement: The first priority is Somerset Avenue, which has been discussed as needing grinding and then paving. The second priority is Main Street (Route #100 Southbound from Town to the Burnham line) due to its condition. The roadway is sinking in the middle and there is a deep truck rut on both sides of the travel lane due to the shoulder pulling away from the concrete base under the travel lane. The Town has listed other road projects on its MDOT Capital Plan solicitation forms for improvement.

Alan Dunphy advised the next meeting would be on June 11th 2012. Natural Resources, Agriculture and Forestry sections of the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed. Chris Huck advised that he would not be at that meeting. Joel Greenwood of KVOG would attend instead. Joel Greenwood will have maps relating to the above sections which he will pass out at the meeting.

Steve Seekins is to contact Forest Ranger Aaron Bailey for input on Forestry section.

Kathryn Ruth will provide the Natural Resources section and Agriculture sections to interested parties for input.

5. **NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS: None**

6. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by **Fred Raynes** and seconded by **Kelley Flanigan** that the meeting be adjourned at 7:56 pm.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Respectfully submitted by

Kathryn Ruth Town Manager and
Steve Seekins, Building Inspector