

MEETING MINUTES
Pittsfield Planning Board
Focus On Pittsfield's Future Public Input Meeting
September 29, 2012

The Pittsfield Planning Board met on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Warsaw Middle School Cafeteria at 167 School Street to consider the following agenda.

PRESENT: Royce Sposato, Walter Reuter, Fred Raynes, Kelly Flanigan and Alan Dunphy.

ABSENT: Jack Wright, Chris Cookson, and Brent Newhouse. **Also Present:** Town Manager Kathryn Ruth, Building Inspector Steve Seekins, Chris Huck and Joel Greenwood of KVCOG, Holly Zadra, Vaughan Woodruff, Debora Short, Stan Short, Ray Berthelette, Melissa Flewelling, Jim Lanzikos, Sharon Norris, Breanna Norris, Amber Gaoutte, Hannah Cumingham, Tyler Gaoutte, Al Wyman, Barbara McPherson, Donna Chale and Trudy Ferland.

1. Chairman **Alan Dunphy** opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

DISCUSSION:

Session 1. Business and Economic Development

Session 2. Town Properties, Downtown Revitalization & Town Parks

Session 3. Growth, Land Use and Zoning changes

Session 4. Open Forum (if needed)

Alan Dunphy led the discussion on the above. See the attached Pittsfield "Focus" compiled as a summary of the 9-29-12 meeting by Chris Huck of KVCOG.

Alan Dunphy read the email from Tom Roberts dated 9-28-12. (See attached)

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Seekins, Building Inspector
Kathryn Ruth, Town Manager

Pittsfield “Focus”

Favorite Places:

Trails through town
Pinnacle
Boat Access (Portage) – Douglas Pond
Bike and walking trails
Recreation pavilion and dock into lagoon (Mill Pond?) off Seabasticook St.
Access to river
Where kids meet and eat (near Mill Pond and Hartland Ave.
Downtown Parks and green spots
Community center
Downtown
Trash cleanup on trail
Manson Park
MCI campus
Small/organic farms (Phillips Corner Road)
Eagles nest and turtles on Seabasticook River

Vision Statement Comments:

Add “healthy” to first statement; Add “worship” to first statement; add “and raise children” to first statement.
Add “places of worship” to statement on diverse recreational and cultural opportunities.
Add statement about how we have friendly and helpful neighbors.
Add statement about how young people should want to return to town.
Add that students should have the opportunity (be encouraged?) to participate in public affairs.
Add good management of solid waste facility.

Flip Chart Comments (Arranged by topic, not necessarily in the order presented)

Downtown:

Prioritize over other areas for new business – avoid strip development
Adequate and visible parking lots (Signage)

- Beautify Parking area
- Improve rear facades of Main Street businesses

Somerset Ave.:

- Traffic calming measures,
- crosswalk safety,
- speed enforcement

Sidewalks and Bikes:

- Sidewalk location (esplanade/green space from road)
- Add bike racks or make them more convenient

Form a "Heart of Pittsfield" committee
Public restrooms
Add activities or services after 6 PM

Promote Business and the Economy:

Ideas for new business: coffee shop/bakery (downtown), hardware store, bed and breakfast
Promote local foods for community events, facilities
"Buy Pittsfield" to support local businesses, e.g. community market
Increase job opportunities for teens
Survey businesses on supplementary needs (training, infrastructure)
Update town website
Recreation business by water

Trails:

Improve and promote trails along the old rail bed.
Clean up trails and reduce loitering (teens)
Trail connections through private land. Extend Pinnacle trail to connect to rail bed on north
Need a portage around dam

Parks and Recreation:

Map and Guide for recreation sites
Have a place for kids to go
More frequent events in Hathorn Park
Refurbish the gazebo
Spraying on public park lawns (reduce or inform people)
Canoe/kayak rental and launch area
Dog park
Community garden
Improve town farm and access to open space

Land Use Issues:

Current public works department is prime location for new residential
Need more small houses on cul-de-sacs

Unclassifiable:

Promote energy upgrades for older homes
School food/nutrition programs