TOWN OF HOLLIS

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of second meeting 30 September 2014 (draft)

Draft 9-30-14

River Payne began the meeting by posting on the walls the lists of goals developed at the last meeting, and asking members to specify some of them as long term or short term goals. Which can be accomplished the easiest and fastest vs. those that might take years. She noted that the TIF ends in 2025, so this money must be spent before then. The TIF consultant already working with the Selectmen could also provide input for this committee.

Some of the more immediate projects could include an inventory of town-owned land, buildings, and roads; location, value, updates needed. Jon Waugh suggested developing a spreadsheet of the town’s roads, with perhaps a condition rating of 1 – 5, what work was last done and when, what needs to be done in the near future, with projected costs. Ms. Payne will work with Jon Waugh and Jack Rogala on the roads inventory.

The committee agreed that there is no need for a Comprehensive Plan committee – the Plan just needs to be updated, not redone, with the same goals but new dates. Members discussed working with the CEO regarding Growth Permits – how many permits are allowed vs. how many used. The Growth Permit ordinance might be outdated, no longer needed.

Other ordinances might need to be reconsidered as well. Perhaps there are alternatives to the Town’s current bulk and space requirements. Perhaps the Town should require residential sprinkler systems in all new construction. Encourage cluster subdivision with a common water supply but private septic systems. Any proposed revised ordinances will need to be completed by February to allow time for vetting before the June elections.

Proposed changes to the structure of the town government can be resubmitted for inclusion on the June ballot once again. Even though the town administrator item has not succeeded in the past, perhaps next year it will. Perhaps the town should have 5 selectmen instead of 3.

Dana Gray reported that the Budget Committee will be scheduling its organizational meeting within the next month. He stated that this year the Budget Committee will be looking more closely at each town department as far as inventory, schedule for replacement, projected costs. E.g., when does the Fire Department require a new fire truck, what will it cost, and where will the money come from? When will any departments need new computers or other office machinery? The Budget Committee will work with the Selectmen regarding capital planning. Some tasks can also be referred to the Planning Board.

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Some of the Long Term goals identified:

* Develop a commerce center; a municipal center; a community center; together or separate
* Community Center with town hall, recreation, library/learning center
* Senior housing, e.g. Avesta
* Ways to attract more families to Hollis: low taxes, playgrounds, other recreation
* Maximize use and preservation of historic buildings/properties
* Development of Salmon Falls area

Some of the Short Term goals identified:

* Review/revision of Cell Tower Ordinance, making Hollis more business-friendly
* Inventory of all town-owned land; create map; make available to public
* TIF planning
* A small “Hollis Community Day” in conjunction with Rec Dept
* Road inventory
* Review of Growth Permit Ordinance
* Close loopholes in subdivision ordinance

Mid-Term Goals (1 – 3 years):

* GIS Platform (Graphical Information System)
* Recreation – parks, playgrounds
* Town Administrator Plan

Planning for next meeting:

Randy Gray will be the Chair of the Committee. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 11, 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Martha Turner, Secretary

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