

Marshfield Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

6:30 p.m. • Thursday, April 18, 2013 • Old School House Common

Members present: Jon Groveman, Julie Medose, Michael Schumacher, Faeterri Silver, and Melissa Seifert. Member absent: Bob Light.

Guests present: Jackie Cassino, James Mulligan, Jonathan Lloyd, Rich Gouge, Darrell Burkhalter, Steve Fiske, Allen Banbury, Rich Phillips, Dina Baker, Rich Baker, Rick Lloyd, Les Snow, Annie Reed, Barbara Bendix, Mike Fritz, Laurie Colgan, Arthur Gilman, Peggy Arthur, Alan Cheever, and Liza Earle-Centers. Also present: Barbara Burkhalter (recording secretary).

The meeting started at 6:42 p.m.

1. Welcome

Michael introduced the members of the Planning Commission (PC) and gave a brief explanation of the role of the PC and what the PC does. The PC is holding these forums because they want to get feedback from the public concerning revising the subdivision regulations and zoning standards. The focus of this forum was on the draft of the new subdivision regulations. He also went over the zoning map and pointed out and described the three districts: 1. Village, 2. Agricultural and Rural Residential, and 3. Forestry and Conservation.

2. Feedback from Participants and Survey on Marshfield's Future and Future Forums

Julie and Melissa handed out a questionnaire and asked the guests to answer the questions 1. What are the assets that you care about most when you think about the future of Marshfield? and 2. What are the challenges that Marshfield faces in preserving those assets? They then asked what it is that people like about Marshfield. The floor was then opened to public comment and the following are some of the comments that were made:

- Marshfield is a good place to raise children
- The Village has a good water and sewer system
- The Village has DSL
- Open Town Meeting
- Old Schoolhouse Common
- The Post Office, Library and Village Store are within walking distance and meet the basic needs of townspeople
- The rivers and trails, the Railroad Bed

They also asked the guests for feedback on Marshfield's future:

- Contain development by keeping the 600' rule
- The Village should encourage more businesses to meet townspeople's needs
- Need to get better cell phone service in the area
- Preservation of old buildings and houses – rural feel
- Concern about water runoff
- Affordable housing
- Housing for the elderly (a committee needs to be created)
- Make it easier for the people who live here to stay here – less restrictive regulations so that people can build houses for their children
- Ways to meet environmental goals – neighbors and families working together to minimize impact on an area
- Energy efficiency
- Make lots more affordable by keeping the size of lots smaller (2 acres)

3. Review of Proposed Bylaw Changes

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Jon and Faeterri, outlining some of the proposed bylaw amendments that have been drafted. The goal is to have them prepared in time to be voted on at the next Town Meeting (2014). The floor was open to public comment during this presentation and the following are some of the comments that were made:

- The Zoning Administrator will be asked to take a more active role
- Looking forward to future development on lots
- There were people who spoke out either against or for expanding the 600' rule
- A build out analysis was performed about 5 years ago – it would be good to get this posted on the Town's website and go over this at one of the forums
- Maintain existing landscaping and screening
- Rural character (the theme of the Marshfield Town Plan) – it is important to think about if someone were to come in with a 20-30 lot subdivision (prevent suburban development)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara S. Burkhalter

Final
Approved May 2, 2013