

**North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: September 9, 2008**

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2008**

**Present:** Chairman Danforth, Selectman Whitten, Selectman Folsom, and Selectman Drew.

**Absent:** Selectman Bourbon

**Also Present:** Harland Roberts, Shirley Barto, Charles Barto, Richard Reynolds, Mark Smith, Cheryl Hoffman, Lincoln Harrison, Todd Hoffman, Donna M Rand, Rebecca S Rand, Mark Eves, Michael Carpenter, Karen Smith and Dwayne Morin.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Danforth opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m.

Dwayne Morin began by praising the Comprehensive Plan Committee on all the work they have done over the past 2 years, and for creating such a good Comprehensive Plan.

He explained to the audience that the Comprehensive Plan would need to be brought to the State for review before September 18, 2008; the rules for the Comprehensive Plan change after that date and become more restrictive.

Richard Reynolds, Comprehensive Plan Committee Member, spoke on how the State sent a checklist in which the committee had to fulfill the criteria of the checklist into the plan. The committee's main goal was to maintain the Towns character and the rural character of the town, with hopes that the town's people agree with the work they have done.

Cheryl Hoffman, Comprehensive Plan Committee Member, explained how she has written an appendix that the committee would like to see added to the plan. Cheryl explained that portions of the plan were deleted from the final document because they were either impractical or too

controversial for the current time. And that she did not want these ideas to get lost for the future. Dwayne explained that the appendix would need to be added to the plan and be sent to the State.

Selectman Whitten asked if the appendix were to be added to the plan that she would like to see an explanation of why the issues were deleted by recommendation of the Selectmen and agreed to by the Committee.

Dwayne explained that some of the actions were re-worded to make the plan of action less specific. As an example, he explained, the dog park. The plan of action stated for the Town to create a dog park. When the issue to create a dog park went before the Town's people at Town Meeting and the dog park was voted down, then the committee would have to amend the Comprehensive Plan, bringing the changes to the State for their review. If the plan stated to explore creating a dog park, and the Town Meeting voted it down, then no amendments would be needed because the plan said to explore to create.

Other sections were amended because it stated to have SAD#60 do certain accomplishment, or to have the Sanitary District do certain accomplishment, and Dwayne explained that the Town has no control over SAD#60 nor the Sanitary District. The action was changed to say, "to recommend or to explore" with SAD#60 and the Sanitary District.

Portions of the Comprehensive Plan was changed or deleted because the Town is already taking action on those issues such as LED lights with our town streetlights. Issues such as restricting subdivisions to only 3 building permits per year in the Farm and Forest Zones were deleted by the Selectmen due to the fact they thought it was too restrictive.

The Board of Selectmen spent three months reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, editing the contents to try to ensure its passing by town vote in the spring of 2009. The Board then invited the Comprehensive Plan committee to attend a meeting to discuss the changes. The Committee agreed with the Board on all changes and recommendations.

Discussion was made about the Sanitary District and how it may be possible to expand capacity for future growth in the Village and Downtown area. Chairman Danforth explained that the DEP and State control how much capacity the Sewer District has. He further explained that all the capacity is allocated but that only 48% is actually being used.

A question was asked about the sidewalks and bike paths and where they would go. Dwayne explained that they would go wherever it was feasible at the time. The Comprehensive Plan is not an ordinance nor a law, but a blueprint of what we would like to see our Town become in the next 10 years.

Health Care Policy #1 was changed from: In-town health care for lower income and fixed-income residents should be encouraged, to: In-town health care providers for lower income and fixed-income residents should be encouraged.

The protection of wild life needs to be addressed some how with in our town. It was discussed how the habitates of our wild life are being destroyed in town by the clearing of land and trees

to build houses. It was stated by Cheryl Hoffman that a good way to do this is by restarting the Conservation Commission in town.

Dwayne told the audience that the vote for the Comprehensive Plan would come before the Town's people at Town Meeting 2009. He stated that the State usually takes the full sixty days to return the plan as approved or with a letter of recommended changes. Taking that time frame into consideration there would not be enough time to bring it before the Town's people this November. A Public Hearing will be held before Town Meeting.

A hard copy of the Comprehensive Plan is available at the Town Hall and Library. It is also posted on the Town's website.

Chairman Danforth asked if there were any other questions or comments, being none Chairman Danforth closed the Public Hearing at 8:19 p.m.

Selectman Whitten made a motion to close the meeting at 8:20 p.m... Selectman Folsom seconded a motion. Vote, 4-0

Respectively Submitted:  
Anita Lambert, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Anne Whitten

Selectman: Anthony Bourbon

Selectman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Gregg Drew

