

CANDIA PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES of June 1, 2016
UNAPPROVED
Public Hearing

Present: Sean James Chairman; Al Hall Vice Chair; K. Kustra; Tom Giffen; Dennis Lewis, Road Agent

Absent: Mike Santa, Judi Lindsey, Scott Komisarek

Chair James called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes May 4, 2016

T. Giffen made a **motion** to accept the minutes of May 4, 2016 as amended. A. Hall **seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed** (4-0-0).

Other Business

Sylvia Von Aulock from SNHPC Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant

S. Von Aulock introduced herself to Board as she is new to SNHPC. She said this is one their hottest topics Complete Streets Project. She showed a picture of Concord and their project and before this the sidewalks were half the size and if you were a pedestrian you would end up walking into one of the travel lanes as there were two travel lanes in each direction and now there is only one each way. She said one of the advantages of complete street projects is pedestrian safety and also lends itself to vehicular and bicycle safety as well. She said the bump outs and sidewalks are features of complete street projects. She showed another project that had no real indication of where you would go if you were a riding a bicycle or any visible crosswalk then in the after picture there are bump outs and designated bike lanes and again the cross walks, safety for all users. She said this helps the vehicles because now they can see the pedestrians and bike riders easier in their designated areas. Other benefits, aside from safety are it encourages economic development, improves quality of life and provides choices with a variety of users including Segway users. It increases the attractiveness of the community and health as it encourages walking and biking. They have invited representation from all of their 15 communities and a host of others and they are doing a lot of research within NH boundaries and beyond. They are working on policy focus and engineering design standard focus and a pilot program and which is one of the main reasons she is here tonight and of course the web base tool kit. She said they have has representation from Bedford, Windham, Derry, Manchester, Goffstown and Francestown. Communities outside their region are Nashua, Concord, Portsmouth and Keene. Other Planning Commissions South West, Nashua and Central Planning Commissions state agencies have also helped out and DRED, DOT and other agencies, Transport NH, MTA (Manchester's transit) Bike Walk Alliance, ARRP and Heal NH (Healthy Eating Active Living group) She said people often say complete streets are expensive but you can see from some of the pictures paint is used creating safer environments by utilizing paint. She said what the stakeholders are doing is providing quite a bit of input and direction to help to develop the web based tool kit and to provide guidance and they have been sharing a lot of complete street projects and sharing why complete streets work for NH by sharing trends on what is happening in NH. She said Keene wanted to do a test of materials to see how it would last for the crosswalks, just painted, or where you take a machine that creates pattern inlaid into asphalt and use a plastic paint or cobblestones to see how they hold up in a variety of traffic types.

S. Von Aulock said in Manchester they invited legislators from the state house and senate to come to Manchester and they had bus ride tour and another group did a bike ride just to see how complete or not complete is Manchester's downtown area is. She said it was quite eye opening they had 4 different house representatives come and since then the house and senate has approved complete streets policy committee and will undergo a study to see if it makes sense to have a state wide policy for NH. She said they are doing a lot of discovery on existing projects; they have invited engineers and landscape architects to highlight their success stories. They have encouraged neighboring planning commissions to share their work and of course

they are doing a web search. They invited Jeff Highland from Ironwood Design Group, landscape architect from the seacoast region and he shared complete green streets a marriage between complete streets and green drainage infrastructure. She showed a rain garden incorporated in a complete street design and cross walk and bike path with a tree filter another green drainage element. She said there are 5 communities with complete street policies Concord, Portsmouth, Dover, Keene and Swanzey and if you think it is just for big cities think again Swanzey is a community of about 1500. The trend for policies in 2015 according to Smart Growth America National Complete Streets Coalition is that small communities and suburbs are the ones going forward with complete street policies. They are looking at engineering design standards and federal regulations, local allowances and suburban urban and rural challenges. Back in 2007 and 2008 when Concord was first starting complete streets they had no budget but had a transportation planning committee that really wanted to do things and they got together with public works dept recreation that had a budget and they painted fog lines and moving them to 12'. Concord said let's see what happens and found there was still a whole lot of room for a vehicle maybe so they moved the fog line another 12" and you can see in the photo how the lines slowly fade over time where they moved it and this is what Concord did with no budget. She said this is how it started with Concord and they ended up with a 10' wide lane and a 5' wide shoulder

S. Von Aulock said one of the things she failed to do at beginning of the presentation is she failed to define what complete streets means. She said complete streets is creating a friendly and safe environment for all users whether you are in a car or truck, a jogger ,walker, whether you are on a bike or a wheelchair however you are as a user of street systems making the street system safer. She said so that is what they mean when they talk about complete streets. She said the pilot program is an invitation to all their communities which they sent out again to see whether towns may be interested in applying. She said possible projects are policy development which can take the form of a resolution policy or ordinance. She said some communities are very interested in the design standard development or maybe Candia would be interested in reviewing site and sub regulations design standards and they work with the town on that and of course public works input and FD input do and education outreach project where they talk to a broader audience or a pop planning or initiative demonstrative project. She said in Keene last September they did a pop up project which is on u-tube. Keene put down temporary stripes in the morning which is a painted tape roll that they rolled back up at the end of the day Bollards were donated by the public works department and the flowers were donated by a local greenhouse and they created these mini pocket parks in the parking spaces and they some were mini golf for the kids and it spanned two blocks was the length. The project gave the opportunity for the community, their Board of Selectmen and residents to see what it was like for a day in that section. It was interesting. S. Von Aulock said the last part of the project would be the accessible web based tool kit, fact sheets. They also would be distributing cd's of the whole project to the planning boards. She said Derry, Windham and Deerfield are interested in having pop up demonstrations. K. Kustra asked what part of the town or city good sections bad sections which sections are you talking about as Manchester has shootings. S. Von Aulock said they do not look at say rough sections they look at if the road system is safe for all users. T. Giffen said that is beyond the infrastructure it is demographics. A. Hall said this program is concerned with road safety. S. Von Aulock said that is an important issue but they are not looking at crime element only road safety.

S. Von Aulock said maybe Candia doesn't even have fog lines or all and may already be at the 10' lane width for vehicle travel. D. Lewis said most of the roads are either 20' to 22' of total pavement and really doesn't give you room for a bike path or anything. He said a lot of their rights of ways are only 33' to begin with. S. Von Aulock said it can be very challenging as that is really narrow. D. Lewis said the state roads in town Route 27 and Route 43 are narrow even though they are state roads and the fog lines are to the edge of the pavement and most town roads have no fog lines. He said the new subdivisions have the 50' foot right of ways but the rest of the old town roads approximately 35 of them are 33' and very winding.

Chairman James said they have two groups of roads state roads the two main routes that go through town and rural roads. He said as a board they talked about this with new subdivisions but have not been very successful and the resistance was they had to widen roads to accommodate this which added a lot of cost. He

said as a Planning Board they may revisit this but one that keeps coming up is having a safe way to get to the CYAA from the school. Kids have to be bused and it's not even a half of a mile and there has been talk about maybe sidewalks or something safe but has never gone anywhere. A. Hall said this would involve state roads. S. Von Aulock said that is why they have DOT represented on the team so any work on a state route they are inviting DOT. S. Von Aulock said if Candia has the project from the school to the CYAA they could do a temporary demonstration project for a day thing so people could get a visual of what it could be and see if it would work or not. She said this would be an interesting project for Candia. T. Giffen said the interest to change this has never reached the tipping point getting kids from school to CYAA would not be a safe because one the traffic is brutal and you are dealing with crossing two state roads. Chairman James said last night was the action groups meeting that came from the recent community visioning event they had for the Master Plan update which Jack Munn is helping them with and one of the things they talked about jokingly was they would have to dig tunnels or pedestrian bridge which are very expensive to get to the CYAA. He said bicycle lanes and sidewalks are more of a rural application that is more of a shared application and S. Von Aulock said yes. Chairman James said the safety issue would be the traffic volume. S. Von Aulock said with Candia's challenging 33' right of way suggested a wider right of way on one shoulder have a could have a separate bike walk trail and have some grass or landscaping in between for a buffer. D. Lewis said on a lot of their roads the issue would be the grade or water to that even when they do have a larger right of way a lot of time they have swamps, ledge, hills and are very limited he said it is a challenge to get 22' if pavement with a resemblance of shoulder on many roads in Candia and then it is an easement not an owned right of way. S. Von Aulock seems then the only thing would be a Charro and said she sees them more in urban suburban settings where they have the same challenge trying to fit everything is a really wide giant arrow painted that indicates to the driver that this is a shared road for all users. D. Lewis said essentially that is what the roads are now. S. Von Aulock said with the painted arrow it gives the driver a notice saying there might be something in front of them and there are also hills besides curves and Charros help give the drivers a heads up. She said you could consider how your regulations could be reworked that might require a developer to do this in the future. Chairman James said the other challenge is at cul-de-sac, they have setbacks then you get to the end of it right back to 20' of pavement. He said they do have a design Charrette through Plan NH which was years ago but nothing has been done. He said besides the school and fire department it is all private property from the school to the CYAA. A. Hall asked about eminent domain on the property and S. Von Aulock said the state will not want to do that, they work with what is existing and how to make them it work.

A. Hall asked about the time frame on this project and S. Von Aulock said Candia has the application and has until June 24th to put in an application. She said their goal is to work with at least one rural community and once they get in the applications they are looking to get back to communities by mid July and work out exactly what the game plan over the course of the summer and would like be finished with the pilot program by the end of September. The project itself is to be completed by the end of December 2016. If they receive a lot of interest they may do round two. T. Giffen said not to cast shadows as this is a great idea in an appropriate environment and should be implemented however looking at Candia's infrastructure and roads and given the widths, they are lucky to be able to play around with fog lines on a couple of roads and the effective change would be minimal at best and think they are a poor demonstration site for this despite the fact he supports this and think they did a great job in Concord it is a wonderful idea. A. Hall said for Candia it could be more for design standards themselves and for existing and future. S. Von Aulock said this would be a perfect opportunity to deal with the limited shoulders and see what others may have for ideas to deal with these limitations. She said it's hard when you live with something so long to try and visualize and come up with a workable solution where you just can't imagine it and this is something they would try and help with. Chairman James said he agrees with all of this and agrees probably not a good fit for a demo project. He said his concern is they are a small group and they have a lot going with the transportation chapter and the master plan update trying to consolidate the regulations into one document and try to update a few at the same time. S. Von Aulock said it may not be for Candia but she wanted to share the program. Chairman James said you mentioned Swanzey and they are great example but they also have full time planner someone who just does

planning. May be they can get ideas from other communities through this project. S. Von Aulock thanked the Board for their time. Chairman James thanked S. Von Aulock for her presentation.

Sign Lot Merger Chester Turnpike Map 411 Lots 042 & 041

Chairman James said the Board received a Lot Merger. The owner, Chester Turnpike Realty LLC is looking to merge lot Map 411 Lot 041 .21 acres with Map 411 Lot 042 34 acres. The Board signed the Lot Merger which will be brought to the registry by the secretary.

Update Envision Candia and Master Plan Update Steering committee letters of interest

Chairman James asked if everyone received the summary report for Envision Candia and if they didn't please let him know. He said last night they had the Action Group Meeting and the attendance was good. He said there were 5 groups but may end up being 4 groups. He said Dennis Lewis, himself and one other person were on the transportation committee. He said it sounds strange coming from this group but they are trying to push for a town administrator and the reason it came up in the transportation group is because when they talk about improvements and nothing gets followed through. Someone gets excited on something and works on it and it never goes any further. The idea with an administrator is that it would take burden off the BOS and give some continuity.

Chairman James said there is a communication group that has a lot of good ideas about doing trails and UNH is going to help with this and they are going to develop a statewide app or website that will list all the trails in the state. He said the business and economic development committee butted heads working through it and they will come back to the Planning Board at some point because they realize they are just an advisory group and have no power and a lot of what they will be looking to potentially help with on economic development would be related to zoning, which would be great because they are always looking for help with zoning.

Chairman James said they talked about starting the Master Plan Steering Committee a couple of meetings ago and Jack Munn, SNHPC is leading this and he is looking for names of people that may be interested in being on the committee. He said they have received 4 letters of interest, Carla Penfield, Carmelle Druchniak, James Argeriou and Matthew Woodrow to be considered to be on the committee to put together the update on the Master Plan. It was agreed to send a memo to each letter of interest to come to the first meeting on June 14th. He said at the first meeting they will be discussing the roles on the steering committee, outline, planning areas in Candia town, town snapshots, and the vision statement and schedule. It was discussed to have the first Master Plan Steering Committee changed from Monday June 6, 2016 to the following week as it doesn't give time to contact everyone. Discussion ensued and the first meeting for the Master Plan Committee will be rescheduled to the same night as the Transportation Chapter Steering Committee Meeting on the 14th if this works with J. Munn SNHPC.

Solar Up NH Round Three Agreement

A. Hall said there is another round on solar. He gave a brief overview saying what SNHPC is looking for is support to allow them to enter in an agreement with Smart Power to work on implementing Round 3. There is no cost to the Town benefits the residents. He said together with SNHPC Smart Power will make presentations to the communities. T. Giffen made a **motion** to send a memo of support for Solar Up NH Round 3 Agreement to the Board of Selectmen. A. Hall **Seconded**. Motioned passed. All were in agreement

Chairman James said the next Planning Board meeting is June 15, 2016 and there are two public hearings, the first is a Lot Line Adjustment on Halls Mill and the other one is a one lot Minor Subdivision on Tower Hill Road.

T. Giffen **motioned** to adjourn at 8:25pm. A. Hall **seconded**. **All were in favor. Motioned carried (4-0-0)**.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Robichaud Land Use Secretary cc file