

Weare Center Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
Wednesday – February 20, 2008
Held at the Weare Town Offices

Present: Ian McSweeney, Chair Paul Doscher Tom Clow
 George Malette Heleen Kurk Liz McSweeney

Minutes: The minutes of the January 18, 2008 meeting were approved as written (George and Tom abstained as they were not at the January meeting).

Safe Routes to School: Ian discussed the current status of the “Safe Routes to School” initiative in town. Some grant funding has been received to date (\$5,000); additional funds of up to \$200,000 will be available in 2008. Tom commented that there is clearly a need for sidewalks etc. in the downtown area as children currently walk along the snow banks to get to and from school. Funding sources would cover a 2 mile radius from the schools, possible projects include: (1) sidewalks, (2) striping of the roads or (3) creation of an off-road path. Forms will be distributed to parents who live within this distance to obtain their feedback regarding the current obstacles children face as they travel to school. Committee members also commented that a comprehensive plan was needed in order to ensure things like the utility poles that PSNH will erect in the spring will not obstruct future pathways. An overall engineering/feasibility study is needed; this study will include a site analysis. Paul suggested that “Project Lead the Way” at John Stark would be a wonderful way to connect students with this local project, Paul will make some calls to see if any part of the study would be of interest to students in this program.

Committee Membership Expansion: A mailing to summarize our accomplishments over the past year and to remind everyone of the dates/times of our meetings was suggested; the hope is that this communication would inspire others to bring their thoughts, interests and ideas to the group. The last time a mailing was sent out approximately 60 households were included, the committee suggested that the next mailing should be sent to an expanded list of households.

Senior Housing: This item has been tabled for now, Paul will send an e-mail to Rosemary at CATCH to let her know that the concept of senior housing has been discussed but a warrant article was not on the ballot this March. The Planning Board seemed to support the overall concept of senior housing but additional language needs to be worked through; our committee will continue to discuss this topic and hopefully additional details (how many units etc.) can be worked through over the upcoming year. Paul will draft a letter to landowners with large parcels in and around the center to determine their interest in projects such as this.

Signage in Town: The comment was made that an additional sign was needed in the center of town to direct visitors to the Town Office building as many visitors go to the Town Hall in error; the feeling was that if a sign is added it should be small and maintain the quaint feeling of our downtown. George will touch base with the Historical Society to find out what happened to the kiosk that was once on the front of the Town Hall; it would be helpful if directions to the Town Offices were posted in that location as well.

Motion to adjourn was made @ 8:15 PM.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 19th, 2008, at 7:00 PM** in the town office building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz McSweeney (Acting Secretary)