

**MINUTES
LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING**

Flagship Ballroom, Chase House
Inns at Mill Falls, Meredith, NH
June 25, 2007

PRESIDING: Chairman Richard Waitt

CALL TO ORDER: 7:42

QUORUM: Yes (by Adoption)

COMMUNITIES PRESENT: 20

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret LaBerge, Alexandria
Dan McLaughlin, Alexandria
Tom Hoopes, Alton
David Kerr, Barnstead
Steve Favorite, Bristol
Maureen Criasia, Center Harbor
Phyllis Taylor, Danbury
Robert Sharon, Franklin
Richard Waitt, Gilford
Stanley Bean, Gilmanton
George Twigg, Gilmanton
Robert Snelling, Holderness
Bruce Whitmore, Holderness
William Contardo, Laconia
Warren Hutchins, Laconia
William Bayard, Meredith
Joanne Coppinger, Moultonborough
Barbara Perry, Moultonborough
George Luciano, New Hampton
Douglas Read, Northfield
Mark McConkey, Ossipee
Bob Butcher, Sandwich
Susan Mitchel, Sandwich
Herb Cooper, Tamworth
Roger Murray III, Wolfeboro

OTHERS PRESENT: Keld Agnar, Rep. David Babson, Kate Barrett, Janet Bayard, Alice Bean, Bryan Berlind, Pam Berlind, Betty Bezanson, Edward Bezanson, Peter Bolster, Jennifer Boulanger, Betty Bowles, David Bowles, Glen Brown, Exec. Councilor Raymond Burton. Fred Clausen, Chris Conrod, Charlotte Cooper, Andy Coppinger, William Dawson, Wayne Elliot, William Farnham, Debbie Frawley-Drake, Tom Garfield, Johnathan Halle, David Haskell, Rep. Virginia Heard, John Hodsdon, Mary Hutchins, Sandy Hyslop, Carol Jowdy, Lou Kahn, Zenia Kotval, Francis LaBranche, Andrea LaMoreaux, Eliza Leadbeater, Nettie Luciano, Catherine Mersfelder, John Mersfelder, Chele Miller, Pat Moore, Don Morrissey, John Mullin, Warren Murphy, Linda Murray, Kathy Nacztes, Linda Normandin, Steve Ober, David Owen, Sam Perry, Alex Phelps, Steve Preston, Nancy Russell, Judith Ryerson, Frank Sabbio, Mark Scarano, Jean Simpson, Ed Skrobback, Ann Smith, Robert Smith, Carol Snelling, Barbara Smyth, Jared Teutsch, Kate Thompson, Peter VanWinkle, Donna Veilleux, Bernie Voltz, Doreen Waitt, Jack Waldron, Tensy Walker, Warren Walker, Jennifer Wiley, Christian Zimmerman, Michael IZard, Dave Jeffers, Kimon Koulet, Adam Kurowski, Sara McRedmond, and other interested parties.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Richard Waitt called the meeting to order at approximately 7:42 PM, and declared a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

2. Election of LRPC Officers for FY-08

Secretary, Tom Hoopes read the list of commissioners elected to the Executive Board for 2007-2008, as follows:

Officers:

Richard Waitt, Chairman, Gilford
Robert Snelling, Vice-Chairman, Holderness
Thomas Hoopes, Secretary, Alton
Phyllis Taylor, Treasurer, Danbury

Area Commissioners:

Daniel McLaughlin, Alexandria (Area 1)
George Luciano, New Hampton (Area 2)
Herb Cooper, Tamworth (Area 3)
Stanley Bean, Gilmanton (Area 4)

Alternate Area Commissioners:

Robert Ward, Andover, (Area 1)
Barbara Perry, Moultonborough (Area 2)
Mark McConkey, Ossipee (Area 3)
Warren Hutchins, Laconia (Area 4)

3. Award Presentations

An Award of Excellence was presented to the Laconia Housing Authority for the renovation of the Scott & Williams Mill building in Laconia. This property has been in decline since the 1980s and is considered a major component in the renovation of downtown Laconia. The renovation provides needed services and affordable housing. It included 60 one, two, and three bedroom apartments, a daycare center and a healthcare/wellness center. The project was completed on June 30, 2006 at a final cost of \$13 million. Kathy Nacztes, Executive Director of the Laconia Housing Authority, accepted the award and thanked all of the businesses and people that helped the idea become reality. Staff member David Jeffers was presented an award for five years of dedicated service to the Planning Commission.

The Kim Ayers Award was presented to John Mersfelder of Tamworth. Chris Conrod, of the Tamworth Conservation Commission, spoke of Mr. Mersfelder's accomplishments, recognizing his 20 years on the Tamworth Conservation Commission, 16 of which he served as chairman. Mr. Mersfelder's efforts have resulted in over 1000 acres of land, over a mile of which is shoreline, being preserved. He has inspired people to be more involved in conservation efforts.

Following the award presentations, Professor John Mullin of UMass spoke. His focus was on New Hampshire's aging population, scarcity of affordable housing, and the effect of both on our economy and the character of our communities.

Statistics show that the population in NH grew by 3% between 1990 and 2000. At the same time the school population decreased by 3%. There was also a 13% increase in people over the age of 85. Affordable housing is crucial to enable a thriving economy. Lack of affordable housing hurts communities, individuals and the economy. Police, teachers, and nurses are unable to live where they work due to lack of affordable housing.

Mullin encouraged communities to identify what the most important asset is in their region. What is important to the town, what is the town's value structure, what is worthy of being protected and what sense of character do towns want to maintain or protect? Individual towns and the region as a whole need to identify and define what is important and have a plan in place when there is pressure for change that may adversely affect a community. A question and answer period followed Dr. Mullin's presentation.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 PM.