

Minutes Natural Resources Sub-Committee of the Master Plan

Meeting: Wednesday April 25th 5:00 PM Planning Office Conference Room

Members Present: Carl Crosley; Chris Franson; Dave Senecal; Joyce Davis; Steve Durgan; Suzanne Ryan

Not Present: Dan Coons, Patti Burns

Agenda:

- 1) Meeting started at 5:00 PM.
- 2) Sections 2 – 5 of the Natural Resources Inventory were discussed. The discussion is out lined below and fell into two areas. The first was the need for more information and/or updating some of the information in the inventory. The second was related to areas where the committee felt that there would possibly be recommendations for the master plan.
- 3) The Minutes of the Apr. 10th meeting were accepted unanimously.
- 4) The next meeting will deal with sections 6 – 9 of the Natural Resources Inventory and was set for May 9th at 5:00 in the Planning Office Conference Room.
- 5) The meeting was adjourned at 6:20

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Information Needed or Needing to Be Updated

- a) Update the Scenic Vistas list as some of these vistas have grown up or changed and therefore may not still exist.
- b) Update the Scenic Roads list that should include Stoddard Rd and any others that have been added.
- c) See if there needs to be an update of the soils map although it doesn't change much in short time periods.
- d) Develop a map of where farming is present in Wolfeboro so that if there are areas where there is a concentration of farming, those areas can be protected more easily?
- e) The management of the town's lands under forest management should be updated so that the overall plans can be evaluated. Some areas have had selective lumbering while others have remained untouched.
- f) While it most likely has not changed, look at the wetland areas and see if they have changed in the recent past.
- g) Reorganize the Prime Wetlands list so that it doesn't have two numbering systems.

Discussion Points from Sections 2 – 5 of the Natural Resources Inventory

- a) Steep slopes were discussed but present regulations deal with this adequately at this time.

- b) Discussion of the Scenic Vistas with relation to the rights of the property owners and the public. Ridge line development may also be something to discuss.
- c) Should commercial entities be able to remove water from our streams at will?
- d) Noting the changes in agricultural use over time, what if any actions should be taken. It was noted that up until recently fields were disappearing but in the past few years there is more interest in local farming.
- e) Soil types were discussed and initial thoughts as how to deal with development in these areas. Wetlands and shoreline areas are protected through state regulation but some other areas may require regulation in Wolfeboro at the same time respecting landowner's rights. Wolfeboro also has its own wetland regulations that should be evaluated.
- f) Agriculture and Forestry were discussed. Education of landowners seemed to be a critical need so that people did not cause environmental problems and also gain the most benefit from related activities. Actions by contractors including landscapers and timber harvesters were discussed.
- g) The town's protected forest lands and such things as the rail trail were discussed in relationship to how can these resources be made available to more people while protecting them from overuse and adjacent landowners from problems with parking, etc.
- h) The committee discussed the protection of wetlands and how DES, town supervision and neighbors all provide supervision.

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