

Minutes of the Planning Commission Worksession 17 July 2019

Approved:

Attendees: Commissioners Charlie Challstrom, Georgette Cole, Robert Johnson, Deborah Mehlferber, Peter Nagrod, and HPC Chairman Bob Booher.

Call to order 7:35 pm.

Agenda, unchanged, approved by consensus.

Minutes of 15 May Charlie moved approval, Peter seconded. Vote 4/0, as presented.

We resumed with MP working draft 051519 (distributed 5/29/19) starting with Section 2.2.

Section 2.2 The Introduction to section 2.2 (Municipal Growth Areas) was rewritten by the HPC. Their changes are good but before accepting them Charlie would like to go over the language for additional clarity. He will also add a fifth growth area we discussed and approved today. This section will be reviewed again at our next work session on August 21.

Bob pointed out that the HPC sections 5.3, 5.4 and the historic rider at the end were not included in the 051519 draft. He is correct and these sections were indeed accepted. They will be added back into the 071719 draft.

Before starting Section 6 the PC re-addressed Section 1.3. We reviewed the purpose of changing the FR (Forest & Recreation) Zoning designation of our woods to FP (Forest Preserve). Commissioner Challstrom explained this does not constrain the presence of parks in the FP as seen to date in the location of Zoe Wadsworth Park, MacGregor Park in the East Woods and of The Dog Spot in the West Woods. After discussion, the PC commissioners decided the FP zoning may provide better legal protection from outside encroachment. The use of Forest Preserve as terminology has a long history in Washington Grove as it has been used interchangeably with FR for many years. The Forest Preserve signs put up circa 1988 are an excellent example. In the end the PC decided unanimously to adopt the WC recommendation to change the Woods from FR Zone to FP zone. This will be included in the Master Plan Section 1.3 and 5 recommendations.

For Sections 5 and 6 the HPC recommends putting all the historical descriptions in Section 5 and moving all the Recommendations (Management) to Section 6. Georgette will format Section 5 this way and the Recommendation sections will be discussed for Section 6.3 at the next work session.

The PC accepted historic descriptions of Zoe Wadsworth Park, Maple Lake, Maple Springs and Whetstone Springs for inclusion in Section 5. When their management is discussed in Sec 6.3 there will be brief mention of the historic descriptions in Section 5.

Section 6.1 Forest Conservation has been rewritten by the Woods Committee. It was accepted by the Planning Commission.

Section 6.2 (newly renumbered) is now Residential Forest. This section has been rewritten by the Forestry and Beautification Committee. It was accepted by the Planning Commission.

The new Section 6.3 will now be Additional Sensitive Areas and contain:

- 1) Maple Lake
- 2) Brown Street Corridor
- 3) Ridge Road Corridor section is now largely redundant after addition of the new sections on the Washington Grove Conservation Meadow Park. A brief description of the lower Ridge buffer and its protection is all that needs to be maintained here. This will be discussed at the next meeting
- 4) The Emmons Property section will be deleted as it is now part of the East Woods and will be dealt with as such.

Georgette will integrate the current changes into a 071719 draft for circulation to Commissioners and posting to the Town web site before the next work session.

Adjourn 9:45 pm.

Our next meeting will be August 21. The next session will start with Section 2.2, then Section 6.3 Submitted by Georgette Cole