

Westmoreland Planning Board  
September 16, 2024  
Westmoreland Town Hall  
Approved Minutes

Attending: Tim Thompson, Alison Fissette, Bruce Smith (vice chair), Bill McGahie, Liana Capra  
Excused: Lauren Bressett, Larry Siegel (alt.), John Stronk (alt.)

Bruce Smith served as acting chair.  
Bruce Smith opened the meeting at 6:02 pm

**Review of Minutes- 8/19**

Alison Fissette moves to accept the minutes as written. Tim Thompson seconded.

**Mark Florenz**

Mark Florenz is the new owner 141 Hurricane Road. He owns Archway farms and would like to expand his pasture based cattle farm to this location. He currently operates out of Keene. Mark is looking for previous maps for the property to aid in his site plan application. Laurie Burt suggested connecting with a lawyer who was involved in a previous sale of the property, Howard. He should have that map on file. Laurie recalls the previous hearing in 2005, where the signed map was delivered to the law office.

**Meeting with the Masterplan**

Bruce Smith- increasing square footage of ADUs- the smallest size allowed by the state is 750 square feet. If the town would like them larger, the town would have to vote on this.

Cheryl Zajac attended the meeting and offered her notes on the masterplan's drafted survey:

-Consistency in questions will help to track trending. The master plan should look back and keep this in mind with what questions they think should be kept for this purpose.

-The committee needs to decide whether the survey is taken by a household or an individual. To track trending, the survey would be done by household. However, there can be more than two adults in a household, and they can have differing opinions. Bruce Smith noted that the last time they did the survey, they sent one per household, as well as to those who live out of town but own a property in Westmoreland. Cheryl Zajac will continue to put thought into how the committee should proceed.

-“How supportive are you of this?” Get a scale. You get more data than you would from a yes or no question.

Cheryl Zajac reviewed questions 1-5:

-Ask the age of the person taking the survey

-How many kids in a household and what are their ages?

“What is your age and what is the age of others living in the household?”

Bruce Smith said that last time they sent one survey to each household, also to those who live out of town but own a property in Westmoreland.

3) Which describes you best? Circle choice

Resident

Non-Resident

Renter

Cheryl Zajac- add other, please specify.

Alison asked where does the masterplan get the list of addressed to send out to? Would a renter be included in this database? Alan Bell said they would get it if it is sent to the address.

5) Where are you employed?

Retired

Brattleboro

At home

Westmoreland

Keene

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Cheryl's suggestion:

5) Which of the following best describes your employee status

Student, full time, part time, retired

Where are you employed?

Provide a list of surrounding towns

Cheryl Zajac- this is an example of a question that would benefit from the survey being taken individually as opposed to by household.

Alan mentioned the plan to do forums after the survey is taken. The survey will have a question at the end, asking if they would be willing to be contacted and invited to participate in a forum to discuss their responses. Cheryl Zajac said this may create bias. If the intent is to get new information and do a new survey, the people who take the survey will get fatigued and no longer participate. If the committee wants to discuss responses individually after the survey, this could be useful to gain more knowledge about why they answered in a specific way.

Cheryl Zajac noted that there could be value in forums prior to the survey, as someone may bring up a new topic that you may want to ask about in the survey. Kristen Riley agreed that forums prior to the survey would be valuable. People would have the opportunity to get educated on the topics prior to answering.

cheryl.zajac1@gmail.com

U6-14

Alison is surprised the site plan was signed because it was decided that the board would talk about this at the September meeting. If they are going back to the original site plan, the pergola shouldn't be there, as that is in violation more than anything on the property. Alison thinks the site plan shouldn't have been signed before this meeting.

Bruce Smith said that the zoning notice of decision should be added to the packet.

Bruce Smith proposed that the board meets on October 8th at 6:30 pm and 11/4 at 6:30 pm.

Tim Moved to adjourn the meeting. Liana Seconded that motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm. Recorded by Kristen Riley.