

TOWN OF LOUDON
PLANNING BOARD MASTER PLAN
NATURAL FEATURES SUB-COMMITTEE
APRIL 7, 2014

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Stephanie Alexander.

Attendance:

CNHRPC: Stephanie Alexander
PB members: George Saunderson, Stanley Prescott
Conservation Commission: Julie Robinson
PB Admin Asst: Donna White

The group reviewed the survey results relative to this chapter. It was apparent that the small town/rural atmosphere are important; no Concord sprawl. The Open Space subdivision of the Zoning Ordinance should be reviewed and tightened. Stephanie will get regulations from other towns. River access also seemed important. Loudon sits on one of the largest clean aquifers in the state; think of ways to reduce contamination; review road salt practices in proximity to the river. Mill Pond dredging needs to be done. Greenway, as green space, not necessarily developed; hard sell but could explore. Question #31 on the paper version of the survey was worded differently from the online version. Paper: Do you support an increase from the existing use of 50% of the LUCT for conservation purposes? Online: Do you support the continued use of 50% of the LUCT for conservation purposes? Committee suggested looking at increasing the percentage to conservation; maybe increase the CIP/CRF allotment. Julie gave a report of farm easements and easements/buffers given at The Villages and on Creekwater. The Conservation Commission's monitoring is current. Other items on the survey deemed to be important: canoe/boat launch, recreation trailers, more preservation of farmland, development of trails and access to ponds and river. The group suggested discussion on tying into Concord trails and looking into river access and the Open Space Trail System Plan done in 2001.

The group reviewed the comments relative to this chapter received on the survey. There were many regarding rural character, agricultural, and trails. Stephanie pointed out that trails are addressed in several chapters – transportation, recreational, and natural features. Access to the river had a high comment count. It was noted that junk yards should be addressed in land preservation and water quality sections. There was discussion about noise belonging in this chapter. Stephanie said it would be a town ordinance but could be an action to address with the Board of Selectmen. This could be in keeping with the quality of life; could be mentioned but not pushed. Outdoor light and dark skies could also be mentioned.

Stephanie will update the survey results in the existing document. Stanley said he feels it was a mistake to rely on an online survey; mailing to each household worked better. Julie agreed.

The group will look at the 2001 chapter at the next meeting and figure out what needs to be updated. Stephanie asked everyone to look at the chapter, review the recommendations section, and report back on the following: 1) which pieces were completed; 2) what changes to objectives should we be looking at. She will give the members a new copy of the chapter with today's changes.

Stephanie had a map of the town, asking where more conservation land and trail systems should be. Julie took the map to have Robbie Buzzell review. There was discussion about overlaying the tax maps with GIS in order to see particular pieces.

Prepared by,
Donna White
Administrative Assistant