

Town Planner Update

December 13, 2021

The Planning Board is conducting business as usual at their regular monthly meetings. The Planning Board recently brought Jarred Mongeon aboard to replace Joe Fish, who resigned from all boards. An ADU Subcommittee is being created and members will be appointed at Wednesday's Planning Board meeting. After this, the group plans to meet multiple times per month to place a bylaw on the Warrant for Town Meeting. The time constraints are tight, however members have been doing their own research and I would like to see the group meet to gauge efficiency and standing. It is possible a decision will be made to hold off until next year, if at all the bylaw feels rushed.

Business is as usual with the Board of Appeals. Not many applications have come in recently. The board granted a variance at its last meeting at 197 Main Street.

The DRA just released a promotional video for the Town of Dalton. The video was created by Wahconah graduate Kyle Dempsey. This video highlights Dalton as a close-knit community for all ages and seasons. The expense will be approved at the DRA meeting on the 15th. Discussion is generally lively at DRA meetings. The DDIC brought on one new member, Jarred Mongeon and the DRA brought on one new member, Sam Pascual.

The Green Dalton Committee has been reinstated. The committee is focused on reducing energy use and costs yearly. This is being done by evaluating data to strategize ways to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and to reduce energy costs. The committee has been active following the Green Communities Lighting Project being closed out. Current efforts focus on an updated energy savings report as the basis for a planned grant request to fund Town Hall insulation.

The first meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Committee was held on December 2nd. The OSR Committee will be meeting at Wahconah High School to determine the needs of the Town in an effort to implement the many action steps in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. As the plan is broad in nature, members of the committee will be presenting findings from the plan at the next meeting. Understanding a timeline under which action steps can be best implemented, and highlighting open space which is in the interest of the Town to acquire and/or preserve will be important in bringing the plan to life. Meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 or 7:00 PM.

Business is as usual with the Conservation Commission, as the winter is approaching the committee does not see many applications. The Conservation Files upstairs have been organized by Cheryl and myself. This was an important task as there was not much organization of the files previously.

Additionally, I have been doing mapping work periodically. A map of the Walker Brook study area was sent to potential contractors in the procurement process for Walker Brook preliminary engineering. A map was also used in our request for APR land use which was sent to MDAR. I have updated data to attach an address to each parcel in Dalton using Assessor's data. Most recently, I used GIS to organize data and provide visuals (maps) for an upcoming meeting with representatives Paul Mark and Smitty Pignatelli. This tool is useful as it has practical benefits such as assisting in securing procurement, organization/clarity of data, professionalism, and can be used to help the Town earn funding for various projects.