

Townshend Planning Commission

Minutes

July 10, 2013

approved: 08/14/13

Present: **Art Monette; John Evans; Stan Holt; Bob DeSiervo**

In Attendance: Mike Finegan; Craig Hunt, recorder

1. **Call to Order:** Monette called the meeting to Order at 7:15pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** DeSiervo made a motion: **To approve the Planning Commission Minutes of June 26, 2013**, seconded by Holt and carried by those present.
3. **Members of the Public:** Mike Finegan was welcomed and provided the Commissioners with a briefing on the physical and financial problems of the Townshend Church. For six years the Chairman of the Board of Elders, Finegan is now Chairman of the ad hoc Renovations Committee, striving to prioritize and undertake needed repairs with limited funding. The fifteen, or so, active church members, (in a congregation of about sixty), can no longer support the upkeep of the building, Finegan said. The last two years have been funded by incredibly generous gifts, income from rental opportunities and prayers.

A campaign is underway to alert the Townshend community that the church is in need of help. Should it cease to function as a church, ownership of the land and buildings, which includes the Town Common, will revert to the heirs of its original benefactors.

Monette offered the Planning Commission's assistance in any manner that was appropriate, stating that Town government had an obligation to help preserve the core of the Village. Evans agreed, suggesting that government might do more than just assist.

Finegan promised to speak with the Board of Elders and continue discussions in the hope of finding practical solutions.
4. **Correspondence:** Nothing at this time.

5. **Reports: Fire Station Study Committee:** Evans reported that the Fire Station Study Committee had met, but had only just begun debating whether to repair the old fire station or construct a new one.

Town Hall Renovations: Nothing at this time.

Invasive Insects: DeSiervo briefed members on the public informational meeting held at Town Hall on July 2nd and the presentation by Jim Esden regarding the threat of the emerald ash borer. DeSiervo said that the Town was in receipt of a \$500 grant that would be used toward education and making a survey of trees that posed the greatest risk or cost to the municipality, should they become infested.

6. **Old Business: Flood Plain Ordinance:** Monette moved to have the Commission table discussion about flood hazard zones until August 14th, carried by general consent of those present.

7. **New Business:** Nothing at this time.

8. **Meeting Schedule:** August 14, 2013 at 7:15 P.M.

9. **Adjournment:** Holt made a motion: **To adjourn at 8:00pm**, carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt