

*Planning Board Minutes
August 5, 2009*

***WORK SESSION
FOR PLANNING BOARD AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN***

***Lincoln Town Hall
Conference Room
Main Street, Lincoln, New Hampshire***

Present: Chairman Pat Romprey, Vice Chairman Joe Chenard, Member John Hettinger, Clerk Jim Spanos, Alternate Charlie Cook, Alternate Deanne Chrystal, Alternate Tom Adams, Selectmen's Representative Peter Moore, Selectmen Deanna Huot and Selectmen Patricia McTeague

Staff Present: Stacey Havlock – Planning Administrator, Peter Joseph – Town Manager

Others Present: Edmund Gionet, Paul Beaudin, Susan Ford, Tom Smith and a few other unidentified members of the audience.

5:02 PM CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Romprey; announcement of excused absences, if any, and seating of alternates(s), if necessary.

Chairman Romprey called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. He noted where this was a work-session between the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen only discussion would take place at this meeting.

Selectmen's Representative Moore stated the Boards were here to decide what should be done with the potential chance of gambling casinos coming to the Lincoln area. He said the Board of Selectmen (BOS) have met with Susan Ford and Edmund Gionet, both State House Representative's for New Hampshire, and feel it is not their job to decide what is best for the town – it should be the voters decision.

Chairman Romprey stated the Planning Board's part is simpler as their only part would be implementing something to add to the existing Land Use Plan Ordinance regulating a specific zone casinos could be constructed in or allowing it to be anywhere, again which is something the voters will have to decide.

Town Manager Joseph gave an overview of where the legislation currently sits with the Bill, which has been "killed" as of the present date. It is thought the Bill will end up coming forth again – it's just a matter of when.

Selectmen McTeague asked if there was anything to limit where gambling could be within the Town of Lincoln at this point. Chairman Romprey responded at this time there wasn't anything prohibiting casino gambling within the Town of Lincoln, which is the one thing the Planning Board would have to work on amending.

State Representative Gionet gave a brief history of the Bill thus far. He stated a survey was done and the only area that's large enough to put a casino would be the 297 acres near the Indian Head. State Representative Ford said at this time there is no direct support for gambling.

Member Hettinger asked about the fees and when they needed to be paid for the State gambling permits. State Representative Ford said the contract for the licensing and gambling were not particularly well designed. They are set up that permits can be applied for, yet there is no time frame for when the fees have to be paid by the applicants.

States Representative Gionet says he disagrees with State Representative Ford's answer. He said there is a provision that says the applicant has to use and pay for the permit within a certain amount of time so as to not hold up another person from actually constructing a casino.

Selectmen Huot asked where the money goes when someone actually pays the permit fees. State Representative Gionet stated the money all goes to the State.

Alternate Cook noted that all of the discussion being held was getting off track as the work session was to determine what if anything would be done to address what the Boards felt were necessary steps for the Town in the event the Bill were to pass. Everyone agreed.

Mr. Beaudin said he feels the Boards as a whole could do all kinds of things with this project such as research from similar areas to see what the impact was on each town, if any, the pros and cons to allowing a casino, the infrastructure, parking, etc. He said the Bill could be brought up again at anytime so the Boards should look for all information available to be able to present it to the voters of Lincoln.

Chairman Romprey said it has been noted at a prior meeting that a few public hearings on what gambling casinos would mean to the town should be held. That way the voters can be informed and get their input and thoughts.

It was noted the Bill that was written focused on 4 New Hampshire racetracks, Coos County and one spot in Grafton County as places to potentially allow gambling casinos.

There was a brief discussion about what part of the ordinance would need to be adjusted. It was noted the zoning maps were potentially incorrect in certain parts and if that were found to be the case then those would have to be adjusted prior to changing the Land Use Plan Ordinance.

Mr. Beaudin asked how the public notification was going to be done. Chairman Romprey said that it would be at least put in 3-4 papers, channel 3 and in a couple of locations around town. Mr. Beaudin recommended sending some type of a letter home with the kids via the school as more parents may see the notification that way.

6:07 PM ADJOURNMENT

Alternate Cook made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Chenard. Vote was unanimous.

Dated: September 9, 2009

Pat Romprey, Chairman