

Glover Planning Commission meeting September 24, 2024

The zoom meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. Randy stated that all Planning meetings must now be recorded.

Randy Williams, Mariel Hess, Doug Safford, Nella Cargioli Coe, James Coe, Karen Gerherty, Ann Creaven, Olivia Neal and Jim Bowes were present. Randy had invited Anna Eldridge and Theresa Perron but they did not attend. Doug made the motion to approve the minutes. Mariel seconded the motion. Nella had an edit: "Cassandra Kimmi represents the Department of Environmental Conservation." The minutes so amended, were approved.

The Glover Green update: Nick Low contacted Randy who sent an affidavit to Randy, Nick and Trish for approval stating what Randy's knowledge of the use of the green has been for the last 100+ years. The Universalist church has made no claim on the property. Randy listed the many town sponsored activities that have happened on the green over the years: an ice skating rink, Glover Day, Farmer's Market, a mobile vaccine clinic, various celebrations like barbecues and dances. Randy's affidavit has been signed and notarized by Cindy. It also included some photos. Nick and Trish have a couple of errors to correct. Their affidavits need to be notarized and sent.

James and Nella:

Because the Town does not own the Fire Department land, they removed that from the plan for the Glover Green. The problem now is that the Civil Engineer says that the runoff water from the green will flow over the Fire Department's land on its way to the river, so that water discharge over that land needs to be approved by the Fire Department. However, if the Fire Department could sell this property to the town, there would be no problem. Olivia voiced the concerns of the Fire Department about their financial situation and lack of appreciation from the town. James and Nella will go to the next Selectboard meeting and ask them to get an appraisal on that Fire Department land and building. It is on a flood plain which limits its use. We need the endorsement of the Selectboard to go forward with an offer to buy the property from the fire Department. The money to buy the property could possibly come from uncommitted ARPA money or some part of our allocated Green money.

Olivia will inform the Fire Department of our upcoming appraisal and interest in buying that property, as well as the idea to help find funding for a storage building. Nella proposed that perhaps also she could go to the next Fire Department meeting. We think it would be a win/win for the town and Fire Department. The town would be able to have the use of the land for the green and the Fire Department would have some additional funds. The Fire Department has a need for storage. A suggestion was made that a storage building adjacent to the "new" firehouse would be more convenient for the Fire Department than having to go across town to the white building on the green.

Karen stated that they would be eligible for grants to build a new storage building. We could help with the application for them. Nella said they would be backed up by the town, very important support for a grant application. Karen said that it would be good to observe that having everything in one location would be best for the Fire Department.

The Fire department lost its non-profit status (did not file a timely application) but Olivia said they are now pursuing that and they have also submitted a grant proposal. Nella said NVDA could help and Karen said there are grants for assistance but all the agencies are overwhelmed by the several floods. Karen looks at this issue as part of the larger piece of the green project.

Marcel asked how to express more appreciation to the Fire Department. They are sort of unsung heroes. Cheri said that she thanked Job for his help during and after the flood. We discussed the history of funding issues between the town and the fire Department.

Randy asked Karen about additional funding grants for the green. Karen said that clarity over the ownership of the green is essential. The Green is in a flood zone which may impact some grants. Federal grants do not want to be used for something that will get flooded. Karen will make a timeline for several grants we can apply for: submission: award: use of funds. We can't start work until we get notice of approval. Karen will make another matrix as things get clearer. Randy reminded her that we need to use the ARPA funds by the end of 2026, and they need to be obligated by the end of 2024. Karen might see about an extension because of the recent flooding.

Congressionally directed spending will come in March 2025. Leftover money gets distributed by Senators then.

James: Hopefully the ownership of the Green will be resolved by Christmas. Then we will schedule the work with the ARPA money we have, and then apply for a secondary grant. Karen will get this info out to us this week.

Nella said the Northern Borders grant deadline has just passed but others have more open ended dates. Karen will check on this.

Jim asked if anyone has come across EV charging sites funding. Karen has a contact and said it is a good piece to focus on. Marcel said that they had just submitted a MERP grant proposal today. It calls for a station at the Town Hall and Municipal Building. We will have to upgrade the electricity AMPs to 200 in the town buildings.

The Town Plan committee is beginning the process of rewriting the Town Plan for 2026. It is an 8 year schedule. Theresa will be on the committee. She sent Randy a copy of the Calais town plan as a good example of the methodology that they used. Randy will send it out.

Ann asked if the Equity and Energy committees could take on those parts of the town plan and Randy said it will be newly included. Nella will meet with Nicole Gratton to start on this process. This might be a time to talk about zoning. Glover is pretty relaxed about regulations compared to many other towns. We will need to address the school, transportation and housing issues. Nella said planning will help avoid worry. Randy asked for volunteers for this committee. Steve Lowe has volunteered, as has Olivia. Marcel suggested inviting Nicole via zoom to just discuss this issue. Nella will set up a meeting with Nicole and whoever wants to join is welcome to.

The Tire Dump: Katherine Sims said that the ANR has referred the issue to the Attorney General's office. The AG's office cannot provide law advice. Cassandra Kinney is part of the program and will talk about BRELLA. Katherine Sims sent an email on September 24, 2024. It will take at least a year before the issue goes to court. We can ask Karen about grant money to buy that property

The next meeting is October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Marcel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Liz. So voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Nelson, Secretary