Planning Board Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2012

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)

Sarah Holbrook (SH)

Alan Rice (AR)

Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)

Brittany Martin (BM) Guest, Linda Farmer (LF) Guest, Kim Matland (KM)

The meeting is called to order at 7:35pm.

- I. Planning Board discusses Linda Farmer and Kim Matland's land on Bug Hill Road. The land was subdivided in 1972. When Linda and Kim purchased the land this past summer, they learned that a neighbor was using part of their property, which happened to be a field. They have arranged with land abutters, Francis Kearney and George Basbas, that Linda and Kim would deed to them a 50 foot strip of land to straighten out the property lines. SH moves to accept ANR, AR seconds and all vote in favor. Board members vote this is not a subdivision.
- 2. Planning Board reviews the November 7, 2012 minutes. AR moves to accept the minutes as amended, LPW seconds and all vote in favor.
- 3. Planning Board discusses Cartographic Associates. Cartographic Associates uses software that takes the existing data from MASS GIS and adds another layer of information such as labeled parcels, distance labels, frontages and road names. There is no text or detailed information on the maps that are currently being pulled from the GIS software. The maps generated through this new software would be much more accurate and up to date as all of the information inputted would be gathered from the Assessors. Ashfield is one of the last towns in the Commonwealth to utilize this software. This software would be very useful to the Planning Board for updating maps that show restrictions, protected lands, etc.
 - a. Another part of the program is Query Manager, which allows users to gather critical data. For example; the police department may want to know how many gun users are in town; or how many people are on oxygen. There are up to 5 password protected accounts (for a fee outlined below).
 - b. The fees are as follows:
 - i. One-time data conversion fee of \$3,000
 - ii. \$900/year for password protected accounts (optional)
 - iii. One-time set up fee for Query Manager of \$1,500
 - iv. \$1,800/year to use Query Manager
 - v. \$300+/- maintenance fee/year
- 4. Planning Board discusses Echo Bond. No new news.
- 5. Planning Board discusses letter to the town regarding the Wind Turbine By-law. Council has read it but they haven't spoken in detail about it with anyone as of yet. Planning Board will wait on next steps once Council has voiced their opinion.
- 6. Planning Board discusses Open Space and Recreation Plan and Five-Year Action Plan. There is action needed from all other Boards to complete the update on the 5 Year Action Plan. AR will send a letter to the Select Board letting them know that the Planning Board would recommend a subcommittee which would consist of one member from each Board. Planning Board discusses that the Select Board should appoint these people to be on the subcommittee. MF moves that we send a recommendation to all Boards that a subcommittee be formed with representatives from each Board to update the 5 Year Action Plan, AR seconds and all vote in favor.

7. SH motions to adjourn the meeting, LPW seconds and all vote in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 9:33pm. Respectfully submitted, Brittany Martin