

**Planning Board  
Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2013  
Ashfield Town Hall**

Present: Michael Fitzgerald, Chair (MF)  
Lauren Preston-Wells (LPW)  
Alan Rice (AR)  
Brittany Martin, Scribe (BM)

Absent: Ken Miller, (KM)  
Sarah Holbrook, (SH)

The meeting is called to order at 7:40pm.

1. Planning Board reviews minutes from February 20, 2013 meeting. AR moves to accept the minutes as amended, MF seconds and all vote in favor. Vote is unanimous.
2. Planning Board discusses the committee to update the 5-Year Action Plan. AR received an email from Mollie Babize, a member of the Historical Commission, it sounds like she can do a pretty thorough job. Mollie Babize asked AR for maps, he will get those for her. Some of the work the Historical Commission has done can be applied to the body of document in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.
3. Planning Board discusses the Route 116 scenic by-way meeting that was held last night, it seems like the project is moving along. AR signed in as a member of Planning Board.
4. Planning Board discusses the Wind Bill. LPW distributed the state link to the Board via email. The Bill is currently in Joint Committee. AR would like the Board to weigh in on this and make it known where we want to go in the future of wind turbines for Ashfield. LPW states that the push is still there from the government and that the state has renewable energy goals. She also states that the bill that was just re-filed that wasn't passed is very similar to the older bill that was denied. AR states that one reason we didn't put a by-law in place is so we are not 'inviting' developers to come and start building. MF states that he would lean towards writing a by-law for wind turbines 150 feet tall or less; unless it can be shown that the height of the tower will not negatively impact the rural character of Ashfield. Board agrees that it is unlikely there a place in town for a large wind turbine that wouldn't have a noise issue, as the town is too populated for the necessary setbacks. MF thinks the best strategy we have it to empower the wind turbines that we want, small ones. AR will research noise levels of smaller wind turbines.
5. Planning Board discussed SH's position on the Board. SH would like to continue her journey on the Planning Board. AR will go to Caucus to nominate her.
6. AR motions to adjourn the meeting, LPW seconds and all vote in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 8:55pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Brittany Martin, Scribe