



City of Caribou, Maine

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Planning Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 1st, 2013 City Council Chambers

In Attendance: Jim Cerrato, Jim Murphy, Matt Hunter, Phil Cyr,
Members Absent: Dave Bell, Bob White, Todd Pelletier

Others in Attendance: Tony Mazzucco, Assistant City Manager;

I. Call Meeting to Order- Mr. Cerrato called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

II. Public Hearing- None

III. Minutes of 7/11/2013- Mr. Murphy moved, second by Mr. Hunter to approve the minutes of 7/11/2013 and the Board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes.

IV. Old Business- None.

V. New Business-

A) Discussion on Light Pollution Ordinance- The Board discussed the possibility of the light pollution ordinance. The Board felt the particular issue Caribou resident Lynne McNeal had brought to the Board was more of a civil issue, and that the City involving itself in what may be civil matters is not an ideal or desirable circumstance. The Board felt that a public education campaign regarding light pollution and dark skies would be helpful, and that the Board should consider adopting some form of light pollution ordinance as part of the comprehensive plan process. The Board discussed the possibility of changing the current ordinance by either replacing it or strengthening language. The Board decided to take no action on the current ordinance but to consider light pollution throughout the comprehensive plan process. Mr. Hunter moved, second by Mr. Cyr and the Board voted 4-0 to take no action on the current ordinance and to consider light pollution in the comprehensive plan process.

B) Livestock and Poultry- The Board discussed the possibility of a livestock and poultry ordinance or changes to current ordinances as a result of residential parcels in the R3 zone that are housing a variety of livestock on smaller lots in a densely developed area. The Board discussed the possibility of regulating livestock and poultry so that homes that are close to each other, regardless of being in the R3 zone, would have restrictions in space for livestock. The Board wanted further clarification regarding the request from the Code Enforcement Officer, specifically whether the distinction of penned versus non penned would lead to challenges with the ordinance and if definitions of acreage as well as livestock definitions would be sufficient for the ordinance to be enforceable. Mr. Cyr moved, second by Mr. Hunter to request information from the Code Enforcement Officer and place the item on the next agenda and the Board voted 4-0 to do so.

C) **Boarding Houses-** The Planning Board was apprised of a situation involving a potential boarding house on Collins Street as well as public input the city office had received regarding boarding houses in residential areas. The Board discussed a request from staff for a request to the City Council for a moratorium on boarding houses. The Planning Board felt a moratorium would be appropriate given that there were currently no applications before the Board for boarding houses and the Board was very interested in making sure public input was received and due process was respected. Mr. Hunter moved, second by Mr. Murphy, to have the Chair of the Planning Board send a letter to the City Council asking for a moratorium and the Board voted 4-0 to do so.

D)

VI. Other Business

A) **Update on Comprehensive Plan** – The Board discussed the Comprehensive Plan update provided by Mr. Mazzucco. The Board discussed population and demographics as well as the next section of the Plan to be looked at. The Board decided that Historical and archaeological resources would be the best section to focus on at the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment- Chairman Cerrato closed the meeting at 6:30pm. Mr. Murphy had left the meeting at 6:20pm and there was no longer a quorum, all business was transacted under a quorum.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Cyr,
Planning Board Secretary
City of Caribou