

## MEETING OF THE LAND USE COMMITTEE 12-8-08

The meeting was called for 7 pm in the Town Hall. Present were Donna Kirk (chair), Sue Blacklow, Kathy Flaxman, Lees Hartman, Dedun Ingram, Jim Roy, Joe Rubin, Joel Rubin (new member), and Bruce Russell. Absent: John Hiatt has resigned due to inability to attend meetings. Linna Barnes (Council liaison) was present briefly but left due to illness.

Kathy Flaxman agreed to take meeting notes.

1) Land acquisition: The Town Council has had no volunteers to work on the Playful Cities initiative. Donna has not heard back from Mayor Strom regarding additional members for our committee to look at possible land acquisitions. Donna proposed that we look at the Town by quadrants, possibly making a grid based on square footage with an eye to the need for park space, as opposed to trying to identify individual properties. Perhaps the committee could walk around and look at existing and possible park locations.

Bruce: Meadow Lane has an additional 25 feet of right of way on either side because it was originally planned as a boulevard.

Bruce: Suggested a wildflower garden in Rosemary Circle (possible dedicated to Jane Lawton?).

Joe asked whether there was actually a demand for more parks.

Bruce: Families in town have inquired about donating land/conservation easements?

2) Bruce reported that he had talked with Linna about why we had not gotten information that the committee had requested from the Town on variance applications and decisions. The answer was that the files are not easily accessible. The new person in enforcement is doing a good job but not keeping all desired records? Because the makeup of the Council changes every year, consistency from employees is important. There was general consensus that the staff could use professional development/training, but less agreement on how to suggest this. This is an issue for all committees and the Council itself. Bruce will draft something but will take it to Linna and Kathy Strom.

3) 35% Non-vegetative Rule: Bruce distributed a work sheet. The Jakubiak Report mentions "impermeable" but not "non-vegetative". The two concepts have different purposes: water runoff vs. aesthetics.

We need to define key terms, starting with 'non-vegetative' and 'front yard'. We looked at graphic in the definitions showing the front & side yards and decided it needs work. Everyone was asked to take a shot at creating definitions. Joe suggested that 'lot' be defined as 'lot to the right of way' as the basis of all other definitions.

The Town does not currently require permits for lead walks and some other paving, so there is nothing to trigger enforcement. To make the regulation meaningful we need to require that any permanent non-permeable structures in the front yard require a permit.

Are small lots currently bumping up against the 35% rule? We need some data on actual impact.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.