

**Alton Planning Board
January 25, 2008**

Draft until approved by the Board

**Work session
3:00 p.m. Alton Town Hall**

**Minutes
Approved 5-5-08**

Members Present: Bruce Holmes, David Hussey, Tim Roy, Cindy Balcius, and Scott Williams.

Other's Present: Stacey Ames-Planning Assistant and Jennifer Fortin-Secretary,

Meeting called to order by B. Holmes at 3:00pm.

Minutes

November 27, 2007 – Motion made by T. Roy to accept the minutes, seconded by D. Hussey. Motion passed with all in favor.

December 18, 2007 – Motion made by C. Balcius to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by T. Roy. Motion passed with all in favor.

C. Balcius – The Shore Land Zoning that we have is going to become null and void on April 1, 2008 and actually we should have had something on the books to discontinue the existing Zoning Ordinance and either defer it to the state's or pull back what we have. Can we take it out?

S. Ames – No it has to be voted on

S. Williams – Why don't we put a notation page to refer to the state statute.

S. Ames – I can add a page of the state statute to the zoning ordinance.

C. Balcius – We are trying to have a big public forum on it after Memorial Day when most people are at the lake and do it over at the high school in the auditorium and DES is going to have a big slide show, so we are just trying to schedule a day for all the people that aren't aware of some of the changes that others are.

T. Roy – We need something in place to have a little bit of safety, on the cisterns I put in on Alton Mountain Road, there are these two access covers that are supposed to be locked by the Fire Department and they are the only ones that have a key. There are no locks and they are wide open and they have a just a plastic cover.

B. Holmes – Can we just send a memo over the Fire Chief? These need to be done especially if the town takes over.

T. Roy – There is nothing in writing as to who maintains them.

C. Balcius – I think we definitely have a list of things that need to be done that have been put on off and we need to get Sharon to get the Fire Chief in here.

S. Williams – I think before we talk about whether the Chief comes or not, the real thing is that there is no cistern ordinance that has been approved in this town. I think it is a bad thing that we have been having people put in these cisterns. I think the town is in a real bad place for the ones we have made to put in already.

D. Hussey – Anything not written can be challenged.

T. Roy – In my case I was forced to put a cistern in before I could get a building permit.

C. Balcius – I know this has been floating for about 4-5 years and we have nothing formalized in writing and every applicant that comes before us gets a little change and I have never seen it done consistently.

S. Williams – Have you read the minutes from the Selectmen's meeting. The Chief came in and talked about these things and he was to come back with an ordinance to be reviewed by the engineer and Town Counsel, and that never happened. I think they are trying to show that an ordinance was going to be intended but it hasn't happened. I am on the Fire Department and I thought they were required for 5-lots or greater.

S. Ames – It doesn't need to be an ordinance, it can be a regulation.

S. Williams – Regulations still need to be approved by someone.

S. Ames – The Planning Board can adopt it in their Sub and Site Regulations

C. Balcius – When this first came about the Chief at the time wanted ponds and then got together with Kathy and went to cisterns as a general policy and that policy was relayed to the Planning Board and we relied on the Chief's expertise for because no one on the Planning Board wanted to make that call for safety.

S. Williams – That policy started under Russ Sample and just an FYI none of these cisterns have ever been used.

D. Hussey – Is it a Federal law?

S. Williams – It is NFPA language but the town has not adopted any of the NFPA and Town Counsel is unable to enforce things that were not adopted by the town.

C. Balcius – I think we are ok because it was a condition on the plan.

J. Fortin – Scott will get me a list of all of the cisterns and I will go around with the camera, which has the date on it and take pictures.

D. Hussey – Has anyone checked them to see if they are working?

Next work session meeting at Thursday, January 31, 2008 at 4:00pm with the Fire Chief.

Motion made by T. Roy to adjourn, seconded by S. Williams. Motion passed with all in favor.