

## Rumney Planning Board

The Rumney Planning Board met on Tuesday evening, November 24<sup>th</sup>, for our monthly scheduled meeting. During that time we discussed a need to respond to comments made about the survey posted on the Rumney town website and the postcards announcing its launch. Board members felt it was important to explain the purpose of our survey and correct any erroneous information or confusion about the process.

- 1) Over 1,100 postcards were sent by a direct mailing service and 460 stamped postcards were mailed to alert Rumney residents and land owners to an online survey. The mailing was postponed until after the elections to avoid any confusion with election mail.
- 2) The purpose of the survey is to gather as much response information as possible in order to measure opinions about growth, density, and the rural character of our town. Our goal is to determine whether or not Rumney wishes to manage future growth by initiating land use regulation tools, including a zoning ordinance. Zoning is an instrument used by communities to determine which areas of town are best suited for specific types of development; an example being the separation of industrial from residential neighborhoods. Noise ordinances and so-called blight ordinances are other options for towns to consider.
- 3) The survey is the very first step in determining town interest or support. If there is adequate support, the board will continue forward and eventually hold public meetings to discuss options for a variety of land use regulations or zoning ordinances that would best suit our town. This is a lengthy process of informational and public hearings, and the board doesn't foresee a town vote until March of 2022 or possibly March of 2023.
- 4) The board has asked that the survey be completed within a two week period from when it was announced. This is by no means a firm deadline after which all opinions will be cut off. We want your feedback. We thought that two weeks would be an adequate amount of time to complete the survey so the board could begin studying the results. We are now requesting that it be completed by December 13<sup>th</sup> in order to present the results at our December 29<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled Zoom meeting. We will of course consider any surveys received after December 13th as well.
- 5) The board did not present a slanted survey as an attempt to lead anyone to a preconceived conclusion. Asking for concerns about a zoning ordinance in question 7 is not a manipulative promotion of zoning. Question 8 offers an opportunity to voice whatever opinions you have and we hope you do. We ask that you think about future growth in town and how that would affect you individually and all of us collectively. The questions we ask concern growth, development, and open space, and if we should take

more steps to manage our density and natural resources. We are members of a planning board who are charged with the task of anticipating and planning for changes as our community expands. We can study and recommend different methods of growth management but only the Rumney voters will determine how.

We hope this statement has clarified some of the questions that have been posted about our survey. The board is asking that everyone complete the survey to the best of their ability and express honest opinions about how we want to see Rumney in the years ahead.

If anyone is unable to connect electronically, please call 786-9511 to arrange for a paper copy.

Thank you.

Brad Eaton

Chair, Rumney Planning Board