

Worthington Planning Board working Meeting:  
**Jan 27, 2025**

**In Attendance:**

Bart Niswonger  
Anna Maunz  
Nestor Mathews  
Kate Bavelock  
Ben Brown  
Kyle Stephens

**Discussion with Ben Brown Presenting on Scenic Road Bylaws:**

Ben Brown reports back about conversation with Eversource.

Ben met with Devon Wolf (Road boss): to discuss Thayer Hill Road opening/scenic road bylaw.

Kate Bavelock presents on other towns researched and their current scenic bylaws. Currently our town is a cut and paste version. Most other towns are the same and with minimum exemptions.

Kate is willing to work on creating an exemption so Ben can cut trees that aren't hazardous trees.

Conversation around Ben notifying the Planning Board before large cuts are made so we can make it public to the town- and people can chime in on the planning board meetings.

Ben will be meeting again with Eversource in the near future.

**Proposed Language for Exemption:** *The Planning Board may grant an exemption upon the recommendation of the tree warden for utility and infrastructure upgrade or routine maintenance projects requiring tree removal and/or pruning, if the public benefits of the proposed project outweigh the protection of trees of smaller stature and no Significant Trees are removed.*

*Definition of Significant Tree: Over 60 years old or more than 3' in diameter, or at the discretion of the Tree Warden.*

**Safe Routes:**

A potential mid- February meeting of stake holders with Hilltown Community Development.

Options:

Complete Streets  
Safe Routes to School  
Shared Spaces

Questions of Grant Management

Joan (with Complete Streets) wouldn't help to write the Grant.

Kate met with a woman who would be interested in helping us to write the grant.

Kate will be in touch with Gretchen and Lisa and Joan about setting up a February Meeting.

### **ADU Regulations Update:**

State will be coming out with model bylaws

Nestor wrote an edit to our bylaws for the website.

*As of February 3, 2025, Massachusetts has put into effect 760 CMR 71.00: PROTECTED USE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS. These laws supersede Worthington's current ADU bylaws. The Planning Board is working to review and modify our laws accordingly. The Planning Board is happy to discuss any questions or plans you may have.*

### **To Dos**

- Bart to reach out to Building Inspector to set up time for March meeting
- Kate to reach out to Gretchen, Lisa and Joan about Complete Streets/ Safe Routes to School
- Anna to contact Nathaniel about map discussion at next meeting.

### **Short Term Goals:**

- Create list of Planning Board's goals for Town Meeting of Summer 2025.

### **Long Term Planning Board Goals:**

- MAPS for Town
- Nestor going to contact the historical society about current town green vs historical context.
- Creating a Master Plan for the visualization of the Town.
- looking into Grant Opportunities to help facilitate a master plan
- **OSRPS To Dos:**
- Revise Water Supply protection bylaw to extend protections
- Expand Westfield River Overlay District to include steep slopes to the east and west of the river
- Target areas for connecting open spaces (part of Master Plan)
- Adopt best management practices for minimizing stormwater runoff in order to prevent erosion (2027).
- Explore demolition delay bylaw for Historic Properties
- Explore zoning changes that protect ridge lines and open agricultural lands that are important for scenic value.

### **Important Dates:**

February 24 @ 6:30 p.m.: Next Planning Board Meeting

Bd. Kate  
A. [Signature]