

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 11, 2005
SELECTMEN OFFICE**

Board Members Present: Janet G. Stanton, Chairman
David D. Macy, Selectman,
Julie M. Hannum, Selectman

Planning Board Members Present: Rene Wood, Chairman
Fred Gordon
John Downie
Dan Moulton

Staff Present: Robert A. Weitz, Town Administrator
Beverly A. Gilbert, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Tom Matusko, Berkshire Regional Planning

Chairman Stanton called the meeting at 6:35PM.

Tom Matusko of Berkshire Regional Planning gave the Board of Selectmen a copy of the Final Project Report of the FY05 Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant that had been awarded to the Town of Sheffield. Said grant period was January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005. Mr. Matusko will submit to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Mr. Matusko briefed on the three primary objectives and accomplishments:

1. Diagnostic review of the Zoning Bylaws. The committee met 5 times with Land Use Attorney Mark Brobrowski to seek his recommendations for changes to the Zoning Bylaws with focus on internal inconsistencies, legalities and to make it more readable. In reviewing, it was apparent that the Zoning Bylaws have not kept up with revisions to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A.
2. Right to farm bylaw -- passed at the Annual Town Meeting.
3. Analyzing how the zoning by-laws help/hinder the Master Plan, and how to implement the Master Plan.

A discussion ensued regarding how to proceed. With the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board will apply for a FY06 Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant. Municipalities may apply for funding - up to \$30,000. Tom Matusko described and discussed the details involved with the next steps: Promotion of Sheffield Agriculture, however, all agreed that the primary focus should be Zoning Consistency, and Master Plan Consistency. The Planning Board and Tom Matusko recommended using the grant to hire a consultant (specialist) who has the expertise to work on such. The Selectmen agreed with the activities to be addressed, and that a consultant would be beneficial. Rene Wood advised that this grant requires an in-kind match of 15% of the moneys awarded. For instance, if the town received \$30,000, \$4,500 in-kind funds would be needed. The Planning Board indicated that they have had approached several organizations, and that the Sheffield Land Trust is reviewing in-kind support. The Board of Selectmen discussed the possibility of providing town counsel work as in-kind services.

At the request of the Planning Board, Selectman Hannum moved to support the FY06 Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant, to be administered by Berkshire Regional Planning, seconded by Selectman Macy. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Macy moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Stanton adjourned the meeting at 7:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Gilbert, Recording Secretary
[Approved July 18, 2005](#)