

**Obery Street Study Committee  
Minutes – June 1, 2006**

The Twelfth regularly scheduled meeting of the Obery Street Study Committee was held on June 1, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Otto Fehlow Meeting Room, Plymouth Public Library, South Street. The following members were in attendance Nick Filla, William Marani, Larry Conley, Richard Sullivan, and Bobbi Clark. Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning and Development, was also in attendance.

Mr. Filla opened the meeting.

Ms. Clark moved to accept the minutes of April 13, 2006. Mr. Conley seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2006 meeting.

The committee reviewed the vision statement drafted by Ms. Clark and Mr. Filla. The committee suggested several changes and voted unanimously to adopt the following vision statement:

*“21<sup>st</sup> century life seems to leave little room for the lively activity of corner stores and front-stoops from which gossiping neighbors exchange the news of the day, and, indeed that may have been all but lost to us. In the future we hope to weave an enriching pattern of neighborhood and rural life among the grid of government and medical buildings that already have a significant presence on Obery Street.*

*So an equally significant presence of neighborhood life in the Obery Street corridor is a cherished element worthy of preservation. For it is the residents who stabilize such an area and lessen the effect of a soul-less pattern of brick towers and preserve the rural neighborhood character of the street. The quality of life of those residents is of paramount importance in any determinations, and or deliberations that are made with respect to: zoning, commercial, environmental, residential or recreational interests.*

And in the best interests of all, this Master Plan acknowledges a neighborhood in transition, and the necessity to balance the desires of some property owners for additional commercial development against those seeking to retain the neighborhood’s rural residential charm.

Respectful of neighborhood opinion that the North Plymouth High School Complex is an important amenity for them and the Town as a whole, especially with the expected addition there of a Senior Center, our Open Space and Recreation Goals look to maintain and enhance that area. The open space value of the 125 acre County Farm is already recognized and our goals call for the addition of passive and active recreational opportunities on the County Farm site. Also, Environmental Goals focus on protecting these important resource areas for future generations.

Our Zoning Map reflects our concern for those generations since it is a blueprint for the future. The uses outlined in each district serve as a land use guide for Town decision makers and current and future landowners.

The existence of service and municipal structures should be welcomed as a contrast to the rural and neighborhood life of the area. The folks employed at the hospital and the county buildings, as well student and possibly senior citizen activities on the Plymouth North campus will bring vitality to the area and add to the quality of life. So the encouragement of pathways, bikeways and other opportunities for pedestrian activity and involvement should be seen as an important factor for the common good.

Our hope is to keep Obery Street a safe and attractive area in which to live, learn, work and play.”

The Committee set the next committee meeting for June 22, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Lee Hartmann  
Director of Planning and Development