

Town of Woodbury Planning Commission

October 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Planning Commission Members Present: Thomas “Skip” Lindsay-Chair; Michael Gray, Vail Leach; David Barnowski, Susan Martin

Members of the Public: Stephen Murphy-Woodbury Resident
Clare Rock-Senior Planner-Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Zach Maia-Assistant Planner-Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Town Officials: Robert Martin-Zoning Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

None

Public Comment:

Stephen Murphy noted his support the Planning Commission’s complete re-write of the 2003 Town Plan.

Stephen recounted his experience in opposing the siting of a communications tower on private property by VTel with a group of neighbors from North Calais. Stephen continued noting that the state statute governing siting of telecommunications towers preempts Town/City zoning ordinances.

Stephen continued strongly urging the Planning Commission carefully consider designating in the town plan certain areas the Town wished to protect. The Vermont Public Service Commission is required to give substantial deference to these designated areas when considering a petition to site a telecommunications tower. See this link for additional information: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/act-174-recommendations-and-determination-standards>

Town Energy Plan Development:

Zach Maia from the central Vermont Regional Planning Commission facilitated a presentation describing Woodbury’s draft energy plan that he created. The draft plan includes the following sections:

- Estimates of Woodbury’s current energy use.
 - Transportation
 - Heating

- Electrical
- 2025, 2035, and 2050 targets for:
 - Thermal and electrical efficiency improvements
 - Use of renewable energy for transportation, heating and electricity
- Existing Renewable Energy Sources
 - Wind
 - Wood
 - Solar
 - Hydroelectric
- Siting of Local Renewable Energy
- Pathways, Goals and Implementation Actions

Zach concluded his presentation noting that the Draft Energy Plan is not meant to be a stand-alone document; however, it will become part of Woodbury's Municipal Plan.

The Draft Energy Plan can be downloaded from Woodbury's Web Site:

<https://www.woodburyvt.org/records/town-plans/>

Zach distributed several resource maps including:

- Known Constraints Map (Identifies likely unsuitability for development)
- Solar Resources Map (Likely places of solar development and known constraints)
- Wind Resources Map (Known and possible constraints to wind power development)
- Biomass Resources Map (Identifies areas of resource potential for woody biomass)

These maps and supporting data may be found on Woodbury's Web Site:

<https://www.woodburyvt.org/records/town-plans/>

Planning Commission members offered their opinions on other types of information they felt important and should be part of the draft plan. Zach will take this information and include it in the next iteration of the draft plan due by the next Planning Commission meeting on November 18, 2019.

Town Plan Development:

Several documents were presented during the meeting including:

- Town Plan project timeline GANNT¹ Chart.
 - <https://www.woodburyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GANNT-Chart-Municipal-Plan-Project-Time-Line.pdf>

Skip described the GANNT chart and its tasks and associated time line. Subsequently, the Planning Commission and CVRPC discussed the project timeline in some detail. David Barnowski commented that an additional meeting should be added to the

¹ GANNT Chart: Is a type of bar chart that illustrates a project's schedule and tasks. See Harmonogram.

GANNT chart ensuring there will be ample time for all Woodbury citizens to lend a voice to the Municipal Plan document. David stressed that the Planning Commission must reach out to those property owners who do not live year-round in Woodbury as well. All agreed with David and accommodations will be made.

- Town Plan project budget.
 - <https://www.woodburyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Woodbury-2020-MPG-Budget.pdf>

Skip explained the project budget and costs the Town will incur as the result of a successful award of the 2020 Municipal Planning Grant offered by the state Department of Housing and Community Development. The budget calculates the Town's match to be \$985.00

- Application to the Grant Electronic Application and Reporting System (GEARS) narrative.

The Town's municipal Planning application for the FY 2020 planning grant was uploaded to the GEARS web portal on October 24, 2019 and accepted by the GEARS administrator. Skip explained that the bid award date is scheduled for some time during the month of December 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Next Meeting:

6:00 PM November 18, 2019 at the Community Room in the Woodbury Library.