

Town of Woodbury Planning Commission

January 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Planning Commission Members Present: Thomas “Skip” Lindsay-Chair; Michael Gray, Susan Martin; Jayne Nold-Laurendeau

Town Officials: Robert Martin-Zoning Administrator; Lister

Members of the Public: Stephen Murphy

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

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Town Plan Development:

Skip reported that the Select Board gave the ok to add an article to the Town Meeting Warning asking the voters approve \$10,000 for assistance in creating the Town Plan. The original article stated that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission be the entity that provides this assistance. However, the article will be changed so as not to specify a particular entity. Subsequently, the Planning Commission will promulgate a request for proposal to qualified vendors for this assistance. Skip noted he plans to reapply for a municipal planning grant in the third quarter of 2020.

The commissioners noted that creating a town plan is an enormous task that they feel ill equipped to undertake.

The commissioners discussed why a town plan is needed. Skip displayed the State Department of Housing and Community Development State Planning Manual which noted municipal plans in Vermont are necessary to:

Empower local decisions by making it possible to adopt

- Zoning regulations
- Subdivision regulations
- Flood-hazard and other free-standing regulations
- A capital budget and program and charge impact fees

Influence state regulatory proceedings:

- Act 250 applications must conform to the municipal plan
- Applications for a Section 248 Certificate of Public Good must give due consideration to the municipal plan

Qualify and receive priority for certain state and federal programs, including

- Municipal planning grants
- State designation programs*
- Downtown and village tax credits (and other benefits of designation)*
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities funding
- Brownfield redevelopment funds
- Community development and affordable housing funds

*Requires a confirmed planning process that includes approval of the municipal plan by the regional planning

Here's the link to the State Planning Module:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/DHCD-Planning-Manual-Module1.pdf>

Town Energy Plan Update:

Skip displayed the "Draft" Town Energy Plan received from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) in December 2019. Skip noted that the Energy Plan remains a "draft" document until it is incorporated into the Town Plan.

Here's the document link on the Woodbury Website for the "Draft" Energy Plan:

<https://www.woodburyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/12.13.19-Woodbury-Energy-Plan-Draft.pdf>

The commissioners began a complete review of the document and noted the data used to generate much of the analytics are from studies in years 2011-2015; the stated electricity usage is 2016 data. Skip will contact the CVRPC for clarification in hopes of receiving analytic data that is more current in nature and amend the Energy Plan as appropriate.

The commissioners were able review 50% of the plan. The "Thermal" and "Transportation" sections are of most concern. Skip displayed a comparison of these sections from the Elmore Town Plan and Woodbury's Plan. All agreed that the Woodbury targets for electric and biodiesel vehicles and targets for the installation of efficient wood heat systems and heat pumps need to be revisited by the CVRPC. Skip will relay the commissioner's concerns to the CVRPC and request a meeting if needed to change these sections to reflect more sensible targets for Woodbury.

The commissioners will complete the document review at the February 17, 2020 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Next Meeting:

6:00 PM February 17, 2020 at the Community Room in the Woodbury Town Library.