

# **TOWN OF WOODBURY**

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: Monday, April 19, 2021**

### **Planning Commission Members Present:**

Michael Gray, Thomas “Skip” Lindsay-Chair, Jim Schweithelm, Ph.D., Michael Sadler; Dave Barnowski

### **Members of the Public Present:**

Clare Rock-CVRPC (Contractor for the Planning Commission)

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M.

### **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None

Clare Rock facilitated a 90+ minute presentation that focused on the Sense of Community segment of the new Town Plan. Clare led the commissioners through each sub-section of the far-ranging document which includes Woodbury’s demographics, historic and cultural resources, community character, housing, local economy and community development.

Each sub-section detailed planning considerations and goals to increase Woodbury’s economic, housing, employment and transportation vitality. Here’s the hyper-link to access the Sense of Community presentation on the Town’s web-site:

<https://www.woodburyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Sense-of-Community-Presentation-for-04192021-PC.pdf>

During Clare’s presentation, several recommendations were made by the Commissioners in an effort to enhance and create a more inclusive document.

Recommendations included:

- The use of footnotes in place of some text
- Use of citations where required
- Ensure results from the Community Survey are referenced in the text and included in the Town Plan as an Appendix
- Be certain the Town Plan contains planning considerations for West Woodbury

Clare’s presentation engendered several discussions amongst the Commissioners. Concerns over how to improve the infrastructure in Woodbury Village and ensuring there are no cumbersome local regulatory barriers for the construction of multi-family homes in Woodbury were just two of the topics discussed in some detail.

A Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunity Analysis, (SWOT Analysis) was featured in the Local Economy and Community Development part of Clare's presentation. The Commissioners thought the analysis represented a good beginning. However, the Commissioners will add more substance to the Analysis before it becomes final. Here's the SWOT as presented:

#### SWOT Analysis

Internal (what's happening within Woodbury borders and Town has some control over and can change)	Strengthens	Weaknesses
	Natural resource base (granite, forests) High second homeowner/ seasonal/ summer population Outdoor recreational resources (particularly fishing, boating,...)	High speed broad band access Available childcare Transportation Access Limited /Low full time population Lack of water and/or wastewater infrastructure Aging workforce Impacts from heavy resource extraction
External (things that go on outside of Woodbury and cannot change)	Opportunities	Threats
	In migration of remote workers	Over use of outdoor recreational resources by visitors

The Planning Commissioners will reach out to the Woodbury Historic Society for their contributions to the Historic and Cultural Resources planning considerations and goals as identified in the Town Plan.

The Commissioners noted that compliance with Vermont Act 171, Planning for Forest Block and Habitat Connectors, is now a requirement for Town Plan approval. To have Woodbury's Town Plan approved by the CVRPC, the Plan must include additional information represented on a future land use map and language that identifies state, regional or locally significant forest blocks and habitat connectors.

Here's a hyper link to Act 171 guidance as provided by the Agency of Natural Resources:

<https://anr.vermont.gov/sites/anr/files/co/planning/documents/guidance/Act171Guidance.pdf>

Future meetings with the Conservation Commission are envisioned to make certain the Town Plan is in compliance with the requirements as stated in Act 171.

Clare's presentation and ongoing discussions concluded at 7:55 PM leaving little time to review the Town Plan Goals and Loves/Wishes. These topics will be on the agenda for a special meeting scheduled for May 4, 2021.

The meeting abruptly ended at 7:58 PM as Skip experienced an internet service provider network failure that crashed his Zoom conference feed.