

Town of Woodbury Planning Commission

March 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Planning Commission Members Present:

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

Members of the Public Present:

Maverick Murphy, Stephen J. Murphy, Clare Rock-CVRPC

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Town Plan Vision Statement:

Jim led this discussion noting that a vision statement captures what community members value most about their community and the shared image of what they want their community to become. Based on the results of the community survey, draft vision statements produced by Michael Sadler, Michael Gray, Jim, and Anna Lee were read and discussed in detail. Michael Gray volunteered to produce a final draft vision statement. Skip will post the draft vision statement on the Town Web Site and on Front Porch Forum and ask Woodbury residents to comment on the statement.

Loves/ Wishes for Woodbury and the Town Plan:

Using the results of the community survey and the recent Community Values Mapping Session, Jim produced a list of “What we love about Woodbury” and a second list entitled “What we wish for Woodbury”. Here are some examples:

What we love about Woodbury

- Lakes and ponds
- Forested landscape with abundant unposted land
- Rural Character
- Connections to family and the land
- Friendly, supportive, and welcoming community
- The Woodbury School
- Reasonably priced houses and land
- Convenient location

What we wish for Woodbury

- Outdoor and indoor community public gathering places
- A store or café
- High speed internet
- A public beach
- Improved recreation facilities
- Improved library
- Childcare
- More services for seniors
- More small-scale businesses
- Greater opportunity to work from home
- Improved policing
- Stronger ordinance on trash and dumping
- Stronger legal protection/enforcement for lake and pond shorelands

The Commissioners discussed each of the items and agreed to add the Woodbury Community Library to the “Loves” list and a transportation component to the “Wishes” list. The Commissioners plan to review both lists in much greater detail and be prepared to finalize them at the April 19, 2021 meeting. Once this task is completed, the Commissioners and the CVRPC can move forward and compose this part of the Town Plan.

Goals/Objectives in the Town Plan:

Jim led this discussion referencing his draft “Goals and Objectives” document dated March 24, 2021. Here are the main categories in Jim’s document along with the associated Goals:

Economic Development

Goal: Support expanded business and employment opportunities in Woodbury by encouraging provision of needed services and increasing the vitality of our village center to benefit the existing community and attract new residents.

Natural Resources

Goal: Protect and conserve Woodbury’s forests, lakes, ponds, and wetlands to maintain and improve ecological functions, recreational opportunities, and scenic values.

Transportation

Goal: Maintain Woodbury’s roads at a high standard and make them safe and inviting for bicyclists and pedestrians, particularly in the village center and Route 14 corridor.

Recreation

Goal: Increase recreational opportunities afforded by Woodbury’s lakes, ponds, and forests for residents and non-residents

Public Facilities and Services

Goal: Maintain town-owned facilities and provide basic public services, while seeking opportunities to make improvements.

Energy

Goal: Reference goals and objectives in the Enhanced Energy Plan Draft.

<https://www.woodburyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/12.29.2020-Woodbury-Enhanced-Energy-Plan-Draft.pdf>

Historic, Cultural, and Scenic Resources

Goal: Protect and preserve important historic, scenic, and cultural resources and make information about these resources widely available.

Housing

Goal: To have diverse housing options to meet the needs of a wide range of income levels and tastes.

Flood Resilience and Hazard Mitigation

Goal: To increase Woodbury's flood resilience and improve the town's ability to mitigate natural hazards.

Land Use

Goal: Guide land use to maintain Woodbury's rural character, preserve working landscapes, maintain the ecological values of its natural resources, and protect its historic and scenic resources.

Michael S. opened the discussion regarding his vision of creating a trans-Woodbury biking trail that would give an opportunity for enthusiasts to explore Woodbury and its scenic countryside. Michael G. noted that bicycle tour groups do take advantage of Woodbury's class three gravel roads now.

Skip will send Jim's document to the Commissioners for their edits and comments. Document review is scheduled for the April 19, 2021 meeting.

Chapters and Sections in the Town Plan:

Clare Rock led this discussion describing each of CVRPC's proposed Chapters and Sections in detail. Skip asked that Energy and Communications become separate and distinct sections in the plan. Skip noted that the Enhanced Energy Plan will be used to define Woodbury's future energy improvements and that the pandemic has amplified the need for high-speed broadband connectivity to each dwelling in Woodbury. The Commissioners agreed to move forward with these Chapters and sections:

Proposed Chapters and Sections					
Intro	Unique Natural Setting	Sense of Community	Rural Services and Infrastructure	Vision for the Future / Future Land Use	Appendix
Planning Process	Natural Resources and Ecological Systems	Historic and Cultural Resources	Transportation	Future Land Use Plan	F+W Community Values Mapping Report, 2021
Community Profile	Working Lands	Local Economy & Community Development	Energy and Communications (cell and broadband)	Implementation Program	Enhanced Energy Plan, 2019
	Scenic Areas	Housing	Municipal Services and Facilities		Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2018
	Outdoor Recreation		Community and Regional Services and Facilities		Planning for the Future of Woodbury Village, 2015
Statutory Requirements (E=Required Element, G=State Planning Goal)					
	E1: Statement of Objectives, Policies, and Programs				
	E5: Rare, Natural, Historic Resources	E5: Rare, Natural, Historic Resources	E3: Transportation Plan and Map	E2: Land Use Plan and Map	
	G5: Natural and Historic Resources	E6: Educational Facilities Plan and Map	E4: Utility Facility Plan and Map	E7: Implementation Program	

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.