

**Worcester Planning Commission  
MINUTES**

**November 17, 2022, 5:30pm via ZOOM**

**Attending:** Chani Waterhouse, Will Baker, Bill Arrand, Phoenix Mitchell, Toni Kaeding

**Housekeeping**

- Chani called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
- DRAFT minutes of Planning Commission Meeting of 10.27.22 are posted on Worcester's website and will be reviewed for approval at next meeting
- Worcester received notice from CVRPC about Vermont's Emergency Relief Assistance Fund which provides state funding to match FEMA Public Assistance after federally-declared disasters. Eligible public repair costs are generally reimbursed by FEMA at 75% with the State matching a minimum of 7.5%. The State will increase its match to 12.5% or 17.5% if communities take certain steps to reduce flood risk. An ERAF summary report indicates that Worcester qualifies for the highest level of state match at **17.5%**. **ACTION:** Chani will send additional info about this program/match to Commission members.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Public Hearing for proposed Worcester Town Plan 2022**

Toni moved to open the Public Hearing of the Planning Commission for the purpose of obtaining public feedback on the proposed Worcester Town Plan 2022. Bill seconded, unanimous approval. Chani presented three comments received from Worcester citizens in writing, during the 30 day comment period.

- Nancy Gore – expand Goal 10 in Part 1 to include care for people of all ages (specifically older and disabled adults).
- Nancy Gore – add language that speaks to a goal of being inclusive of diversity. (See DEI statement in Part 1.
- Freedom Mauran – include wording around freedom from security cameras on streets and roads of Worcester

Following no additional comments, Bill moved to close the Public Hearing, Toni seconded, unanimous approval.

**Planning Commission Response to Public Comments**

Following lengthy discussion, Commissioners agreed upon the following changes to the proposed Town Plan:

- **Amend Part 1, Goal 3 to read:** Champion and, in select cases, provide local access to educational and other opportunities and services for Worcester residents of all ages and abilities.
- **Amend Part 4, Section B Strategies, Services #8 to read:** Worcester will provide access to educational and other services for residents of all ages and abilities, including pre-school and senior residents, by providing those services in town or seeking pathways to those services.
- **Amend Part 1, section F, Worcester Declaration of Inclusion, adding:** The Worcester Planning Commission embraces Worcester’s Declaration of Inclusion. Further, the Planning Commission is guided by the American Institute of Certified Planners’ (AICP) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. The following statement is derived from the AICP’s “Code”:  
*We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.*
- No action at this time was advised by the Commissioners on the topic of security cameras due to the complexity of the request which gives rise to issues of freedom, safety and more. Future consideration warranted.

**Planning Commission Resolution Approving Plan**

Will moved to approve adoption of the 2022 Worcester Town Plan, as amended during this meeting, for submission to the Worcester Selectboard and filing with the Worcester Town Clerk, Bill seconded, unanimous approval. ACTION: Chani and Toni to prepare the proposed Town Plan, with amendments, for consideration by the Selectboard.

**Matters Arising**

Toni urged Planning Commission to join Selectboard in seeking renewable energy opportunities – especially solar – for Town buildings, as outlined in Part 6 Energy of the Town Plan.

**Next meeting**

**Dec 15, 5:30pm via ZOOM**

**Adjourn**

Chani moved to adjourn, Phoenix seconded, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Toni Kaeding

Worcester Planning Commission