

Worcester Planning Commission Meeting
Draft Minutes
5/21/19

Members Present: Stewart Clark, Toni Kaeding, Myles Charter, Bill Arrand, and Jaiel Pulskamp
Meeting start time: 6:36 PM
Location - Second floor of the Town Hall

Toni made a motion to call the meeting to order
Bill moved
Jaiel seconded

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from 4/23/19
2. Toni report
 - Tutorial for Act 250
 - Municipal planning grants
 - Action items - specifics and locations
3. Stew report
 - Progress on maps
 - Connecting with adjoining towns
 - Vermont Natural CBD
 - Selectboard Mtg 5/21
4. Action items - specifics and locations 40 min
5. Matters Arising/Adjournment 5 min

Amended and Approved 4/23/19 Meeting Minutes
Action: Added words "Selectboard"
All approved minutes.

Topic: Tutorial on Act 250

Discussion: There is a lot of information to access and so a public forum on Act 250 is not pressing at this time. The legislature will not be doing anything with Act 250 this year.

Action: Review how Act 250 operates and how to operate within act 250.

Topic: Municipal planning grants

Discussion: 29 towns got a total of \$460,000 in grant money to help with planning and town improvement. Deadline for application is September 30th, for fiscal year 2020.

Requirements are for municipalities without a plan and the funds can be used to help us build a plan. We could apply for funding to get the maps done, to polish the final copy, or Act 174 energy plan. Town does have to provide a 10% match.

Action: Make a decision around what we want to use the grant money for and apply for the grant.

Topic: Maps

Discussion: Maps will not be done in time for the regional planning commissions fiscal years. The fiscal year ends July 1st. Figures can get into the Worcester town plan, but not the maps. There needs to be a discussion about each map, which will take awhile.

Action: SC will continue to work on maps

Topic: Connecting with adjoining towns

Discussion: Update from SC on the Waterbury meeting on wind

- The meeting to discuss the Waterbury energy proposal was not properly warned. There will be another meeting to review Waterbury's energy plan.
- SC read through the Stowe and Waterbury energy plans. The plans seem to be taken right out of the regional plans.
- In Worcester's plan wind development is excluded above 1500 feet. Though we don't have a number written in our plan.
- SC thinks that a renewable energy resource connected to the grid cannot be prohibited by municipal action.
- Middlesex has the Dumpling Hill area at 1400 feet. Middlesex has hired a town planner. It seems they are just using the regional plan to formulate the Middlesex energy plan.
- Middlesex and Stow should have sent Worcester their energy plans so we could see what they were planning for wind energy.
- The question arose that if we exclude wind development does this exclude all development in Worcester.
- There is some conflict between Worcester plan and regional plan around designations
- If all roads are declared scenic does this mean no roads are scenic? Do we need to specify which roads are scenic in a plan?
- Middlesex does not have a current town plan so they are doing a rewrite not an update. Cannot do an update if your current plan is expired.
- Middlesex used the state map for forest blocks. We are generally in agreement with Middlesex's designation of forest blocks, however the Worcester plan designated the area from Mackenzie road to story road as a forest block and the state does not designate this area as a forest block.
- There is a 2019 update for river corridor designation that we might need to update our river corridor section.
- We need to make sure our plan references current and future designations. Worcester's plan describes what is and what we envision.
- Action: SC will add elevation number into our plan for wind development. He will check in with Clare about our question around wind development and other development, and will check in with Clare about Worcester's designations. SC will contact Clare on the rule around updated or rewrite for plan. SC will check in with Clare about municipalities rejecting renewable energy development.

Topic: Vermont Natural CBD

Discussion:

- SC contacted Vermont DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation). Spoke with Megan. Needs the parcel numbers and other information.
- SC asked about sediment control, ditching, road, greenhouse sighted in floodplain.
- Sent a letter to Susan Beard District 5 Environmental coordinator summarizing concerns for violation of Act 250 by the and Down Home Whiskey.
- May 29th meeting in Montpelier from 6-8 new exemptions for accessory on farm business.

Topic: Action items - specifics and locations

Discussion:

- Actions should be added as an addendum at the end of each chapter so there is some level of flow.
- Put a list at the end of the appendix of policies of goals, policies and actions.
- We intend to do 10 or 15 actions
- Local emergency management plan
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Motion to adjourn TK

Second MC

Adjourn 8:12