

Worcester Planning Commission

MINUTES

March 17, 2021, 6:30pm

Attending via ZOOM: Kate Spring, Meredith Crandall, Toni Kaeding, Justin Kenney

Welcome & Housekeeping

The Minutes of 3.3.21 were reviewed and approved.

Health, Cannabis and the Town Plan

Ann Gilbert from New Directions contacted Toni about the inclusion of issues related to marijuana in the Town Plan – including growing, distribution, retail and use. This is an emerging focus for New Directions and some towns, including neighboring E Montpelier and Elmore have adopted public positions. Following discussion, group agreed that Worcester Planning Commission not prepared to make recommendations on this topic at this time. May reconsider after public input.

ACTION: Introduce as discussion topic during public review sessions of Plan.

Part 9 Land Use

Review of this final section by group generated recommendations to:

- Avoid duplicate discussion of topics already covered in prior chapters. Refer to those chapters as appropriate.
- In the discussion around energy land use, offer basic information around conservation and renewables but defer more complicated calculations and siting to Act 174 planning.
- Utilize state laws, Act 250 and Act 174, to support planning goals whenever possible.

ACTION: Toni to make recommended changes to Part 9 and tackle compilation of the whole. Kate to complete work on Part 6.

Matters Arising

This was the last planned meeting of the Task Force, although episodic support may still be sought. Huge thanks to Justin and Meredith for their many hours of expert help. Following final touches to the Plan, it will be offered for public review, Select Board approval, and Regional Planning Commission stamp of approval.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm