

Town of Hinesburg Planning Commission

April 13, 2016

Approved 4/27

Members Present: Joe Iadanza, Maggie Gordon, Russell Fox, Rolf Kielman, Jeff French, Dennis Place, and Aaron Kimball.

Absent: James Donegan.

Also present: Alex Weinhagen (Director of Planning & Zoning) and Freeda Powers (Recording Secretary).

Public Present: None

Joe I. chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 7:34pm.

Agenda Changes: There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comments for Non-agenda Items: None.

Stormwater Regulations—Possible Refinement or Amendments to Regulations Adopted in 2015 (ct'd from 1/13/16 & 8/26/15): The Selectboard wants to know if the changes based on feedback are something the Commission is ok with to finalize. There was some discussion regarding erosion control as it relates to storm water control. The Board agreed that there are costs accrued one way or another; more complex regulations or tax payers pay to clean up after development impacts. The Board was not amenable to arbitrary thresholds. They would like to allow modifications over time but to give it time to work; it will evolve over time as we strive to achieve our goals.

Alex W. has perused the VLCT (Vermont League of Cities & Towns) GSI spreadsheet and factsheet. There are non-engineered ways to meet the Vermont water quality standards. He finds it to be complicated and is not inclined to go further with it.

Aaron K. agreed and recommends adding pictures to aid.

Joe I. said we set a higher standard than the state, also. The state may soon be revising their impervious surface threshold to ½ acre (from 1 acre). He said we do not want to relax standards for smaller projects.

The Board agreed to offer the Selectboard some bullet points as to why they think the regs should be allowed time to work. Joe to draft.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Capacity—Update on 4/4 Selectboard meeting discussion: A draft of the report was given to the Selectboard on April 4th. The report outlined capacity, expected new requirements and the expense to the Town to upgrade to meet specifications. We currently have 250,000 capacity per day. We are using about 60% of that now. Ammonia treatment will likely be necessary, even without any increase in current wastewater flow. Phosphorus treatment will be needed if wastewater flows are increased much over current flows. We cannot get to the full 250,000 gpd

permitted capacity without phosphorus treatment. Alex W. explained that phosphorus and ammonia both now have level limits. We will be cleaning the lagoons yearly now, rather than biannually.

Alex W. explained that there are three options before us: install technology to lower ammonia and phosphorus loading or go with a sequential batch reactor vs. lagoons to deal with both phosphorus and ammonia quicker. Cost estimates are \$3.5 million to treat ammonia only, \$3-5 million additional to treat phosphorus, or \$9-10 million for a single batch reactor to treat both and significantly expand capacity. With only about 400 users on the system, that's a high financial burden to place on such a small group of people. The Board collectively wonders what reasonable actions the town can take. They discussed revisiting interim zoning and said we as a town will need to prioritize development. The Board is aware of the catch 22 this problem creates: We need big development projects to help pay into the system, but we need the system capacity in place to get the big development. They discussed going to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to seek a larger scale solution across the larger water shed, or in fact the state. The next step will be for the Planning Commission to meet with the Selectboard to lay out reasons for interim zoning and to urge that we maintain the moratorium at this time. The Board will look at the Town Plan revisions at their next meeting and from their will meet with the Selectboard.

Minutes from 2/24, 3/9 & 3/23:

Maggie G. **made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of 2/24/16.** Dennis P. **seconded the motion.** Joe I. abstained. The Board **voted 6-0.**

Rolf K. **made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of 3/9/16.** Jeff F. **seconded the motion.** Dennis P. and Russell F. abstained. The Board **voted 5-0.**

Rolf K. **made a motion to approve as amended the minutes of 3/23/16.** Jeff F. **seconded the motion.** Dennis P. and Aaron K. abstained. The Board **voted 5-0.**

Other Business:

A wetland impact permit has been issued by the VT Agency of Natural Resources for a Single Family Home on the Therrien property located at 211 Pond Brook Rd.

The Board acknowledged a submission from Bill Marks regarding Renewable Energy Credits.

The Hannaford decision has been passed down from the Court and is available for review.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Freeda Powers, Recording Secretary