

**Town of Hinesburg
Planning Commission
May 18, 2016
Approved 5/28**

Members Present: Joe Iadanza, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, James Donegan.

Members Absent: Rolf Kielman, Jeff French, Russell Fox.

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

Public Present: John Kiedaisch.

Joe I. chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 7:35pm.

Agenda Changes: The Board agreed to delete the Village NE District Allowed Uses discussion from the Agenda.

Public Comments for Non-agenda Items: None.

Town Plan—Review Draft 1 (ct'd from 4/27 & 5/11): The Board continued its review of the Town Plan draft. Picking up on Chapter #5: Natural Resources & Ecological Systems.

Joe I. said this chapter is long and difficult to get through. Maggie G. agreed, but said it's an important chapter to the Town.

5.1: Joe I. took issue with the language of "ownership", saying we care about open tracts, not boundary lines. James D. agreed, but said this prevents forest fragmentation and aids in contiguous area. Alex W. agreed, adding that options for use greatly decrease. Joe I. said we have encouraged clustered development etc. in an aim to achieve that. John K. spoke from the audience saying he agrees with Joe's concern and recognizes this played out on Lewis Creek Road. The overall goal is to keep forest land and animal habitat intact and as functional forests. The Board was ok with changing language to "tracts".

5.3.3: Joe I. suggested adding Transfer of Development Rights. John K. agreed. Alex W. said that has density implications to consider.

5.5.3: James D. asked if there is another group that monitors water quality at Lake Iroquois. Alex W. said the Lake Iroquois Association has done it in the past and we can recognize them more specifically. The Board agreed this was not necessary.

5.4: John K. suggested siting specifics here for actions. Alex W. said we could address new state standards about educating and informing farmers to the best practices with the Agency of AG, local land trust, local conservation commission, etc. James D. suggested the Conservation Commission could annually award a local farm for implementing best practices, etc. and use this as a model or education opportunity. John K. agreed to draft language and email it to Alex W.

5.8.2: Dennis P. said we are already doing this. Alex W. said this is recommended to update maps not to be development specific.

5.9.3: James D. asked if this has to be done periodically. Alex W. said updated as needed.

5.8.5: the Board was ok with saying Conservation Easements.

5.10.5: The Board was ok with deleting.

5.12.1: The Board was ok with deleting.

5.12: James D. suggested adding cliff overlooks as a valuable resource while we work to identify and conserve them. The Board was ok with this addition.

5.11.3: Maggie G. suggested siting Map 14. The Board was ok with this and also would like to add a definition of corridor. Dennis P. suggested we also better define the width of a true Wildlife Corridor. John K. cautioned against that, saying there are many variables. Maggie G. suggested consideration of stressor impacts of recreation. The Board was ok with adding this reference.

John K. suggested adding an acronym glossary.

Maggie G. inquired about adding the Green Space Plan to the appendix. Alex W. said no, the Conservation Commission helped us to update the natural resources section and incorporated the Green Space Plan information.

Chapter #6:

6.2.1: Joe I. said we could make the Official Map more specific given the recent Act 250 activity.

6.3.7: Joe I. said landowners need to be involved.

6.3.8: Dennis P. said he feels we should work with landowners, but not force them. The Board agreed to add language to work with landowners.

6.3.9: Joe I. voiced concerns with compatibility issues. James D. disagreed, saying he feels this is not an issue of concern. The Board was ok with deleting it.

6.7: Maggie G. suggested adding Safety & Mobility in Transportation Services (use previous language).

6.8.3: Maggie G. encouraged adding back in previous language about connecting or encouraging partnerships between seniors and students to benefit all ages.

6.1: James D. suggesting adding to reflect possible changes. Alex W. agreed.

6.9.5: James D. suggested changing language to continue service in Hinesburg.

Maggie G. suggested specifying on pg. 63 that all Officers are EMT trained.

Pg. 67: James D. suggested adding by Land Trust.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Freedra Powers, Recording Secretary