

**Town of Hinesburg
Planning Commission**

July 13, 2016

Approved July 27, 2016

Members Present: Joe Iadanza, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Rolf Kielman, John Kiedaisch.

Members Absent: Russell Fox, James Donegan, Barbara Forauer, Jeff French

Public Present: None

Also Present: Dawn Morgan (Recording Secretary) and Alex Weinhagen (Director of Planning & Zoning).

Joe I. chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 7:33pm.

Agenda Changes: None.

Public Comments for Non-agenda Items: None.

Town Plan – Review Draft 1 (cont’d from 4/27, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/22 mtgs):

Chapter 10 – Implementation: The Commission continued its review of the Town Plan draft beginning with page 108 of Chapter 10: Implementation. There was discussion regarding the projected time horizon for each action item listed in the table and some action items were deleted or merged. The Commission was able to complete its review of the Plan and assignation of priority/time horizon for each item.

John K. expressed a concern that there is nothing in the Plan addressing public safety, namely the future direction of the Police and Fire Departments. He further expressed a desire to include verbiage defining the Select Board’s role in encouraging full Committee and Board membership. He also felt that the Plan could include ways to improve communication between Committees/Boards and town citizens.

Alex W. suggested that John K. draft language detailing these items, to be reviewed at a future meeting for possible inclusion in the text of Section 6, P. 61 under subtitle General Government.

Top 10 priority action items – Ranking top 10 goals: Alex W. encouraged Committee members to finish ranking their top 10 goals and he will summarize the results for inclusion in the 7/27/16 meeting.

Next steps – Draft 2 & tentative public hearing schedule: Alex W. indicated that the next steps will be to create a second draft of the Plan for future review. A public hearing should also be scheduled, but he noted that it probably makes sense to schedule it for some time in September when school is back in session and community members are more likely to be able to attend.

Renewable Energy Siting - Overview of new State law – S.260, Act 174: Alex W. reported to the Commission on the newly passed renewable energy siting bill (S.260) and its relevance to the current Town Plan update process. The law empowers municipal and regional Plans to include renewable energy siting guidelines, as long as the energy section of the plan meets certain criteria. He said that although the latest draft of the Town Plan Energy Chapter is a good start, he doubts that it will be sufficient to address all the required elements outlined in the new legislation.

Additionally, Alex W. said that he learned today that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is not likely to have the energy section of the regional plan updated until the spring of 2018. So although the Alex's original thought was to revisit and update the Town Plan's Energy Chapter in 2017, it may be worth waiting until the CCRPC completes their process and gets the regional plan approved by the Public Service Board (PSB), in order to make sure that the update meets all of the criteria.

Alex W. said that he would notify the Energy Committee on the status of the CCRPC and PSB timeline.

Minutes of 06/22/16: Maggie G. made a **motion to approve the 06/22/16 minutes as amended** and John K. **seconded the motion**. The Board voted **5-0**.

Other Business & Correspondence

- Alex W. reminded the Commission that he will not be in attendance at the 07/27/16 meeting.
- **Solar Screening Regulations – Update on Selectboard review:** Alex noted that the Selectboard is still reviewing the proposal, with the next discussion still to be scheduled.
- **Building Homes Together initiative:** Alex W. reported that a Coalition called Building Homes Together, was recently formed by the Champlain Housing Trust, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and Housing Vermont with the goal of increasing the production of housing to a target of 3,500 new homes in the next five years. The Coalition's focus is on Chittenden County and could lead to opportunities for permit reform, more funding for affordable housing development, infrastructure, etc. He noted that since this a 5-year initiative, the impact on housing in Hinesburg is likely to be minimal due to general infrastructure constraints.
- July 27 meeting agenda items
 - Top 10 priority action items - ranking top 10 goals
 - Discuss a possible letter to DRB on the interim zoning topic
 - Governance & Public Safety items for draft 2 discussion in August

Joe I. made a **motion to close the meeting and adjourn**. John K. **seconded the motion**. The Board voted **5-0**. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Morgan, Recording Secretary