

draft
West Rutland Planning Commission (PC) Special Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023 6:00pm Town Offices, 35 Marble St.

Members Present: Sean Barrows (Chair), Michael Brzoza (Vice-Chair), Leona Minard, Jim Flint

Also Present: Jeffrey Biasuzzi (as P.C. Alternate & Recorder and Zoning Administrator); Logan Solomon (Planner; RRPC) via Zoom.

Call to Order: Chair S. Barrows called the Meeting to Order at 6:03 pm. As a US flag was not available, reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance was deferred. The Meeting was not electronically recorded.

Agenda:

S. Barrows requested Motion to approve the proposed Agenda. M. Brzoza Moved to approve the Agenda. J. Flint seconded, all approved, and Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes:

The Dec. 6th, 2023 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and M. Brzoza made a Motion to approve as written. J. Flint seconded, all approved, and Motion passed. The Dec. 12th, 2023 Minutes were reviewed. J. Flint Moved to approve, subject to a minor typo correction. M. Brzoza so seconded, all approved the (corrected) Minutes .

Open Meeting to Public Input.

There was no Public in attendance nor written input.

Updates to Town Plan (TP):

Logan Solomon (Regional Planning Commission Planner) initiated discussion on the Energy Section. Existing and planned solar generation facilities were discussed. TP language was amended to encourage large scale solar generation facilities that are appropriately located to avoid adverse impacts to the Town.

Planning grants to provide for adoption of Enhanced Energy Planning (EEP) will be available in 2024, and the PC will have to evaluate the options of adopting such a policy. The benefits of adopting an EEP include “substantial deference” in the VT PUC permitting process and updated “preferred site” mapping. The RRPC Energy Planner is to arrange to meet with the PC in the future to discuss.

J. Biasuzzi commented that commercial wind generated power was not publically accepted in the past; and that wind power (especially along ridgelines) was not allowed in the current TP. L. Solomon noted that the TP cannot discriminate on types of (energy) development.

Heating fuels were discussed briefly.

Flood Resiliency was reviewed next. The past (and recently updated) Hazard Mitigation Plans have resulted in reduced storm-related damage to roads. Wetland preservation is a significant contributor to flooding resilience.

It was noted that the current Zoning Map was revised in Dec. 2022, and that it now closely resembles the Future Land Use Map (which will remain unchanged?).

L. Solomon again requested Members submit ACTION and IMPLEMENTATION preferences. L. Minard thought the current Actions & Goals already discussed were well thought out. J. Flint thought the Economic Development Section was still “sparse”.

Adoption schedules were reviewed. The Members elected to submit the existing Plan as revised to date; and initiate the adoption process by sending required notices out by Saturday 12/30/2023. L. Solomon to work through a final draft and present to Members by Wed. 12/27/2023. J. Biasuzzi to distribute notices upon receiving PC instructions by Thurs. 12/28/2023.

Next Meeting Date:

The Members agreed to hold a Special Meetings on Wednesday at 6:00 pm Dec. 27, 2023 at Town Office.

Adjournment:

L. Minard made a Motion to conclude the Meeting. J. Flint seconded, All approved and the Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by J. Biasuzzi

Approved: _____