

March 21, 2013

PC Members Present: Rick Hopkins (Chair), Kim Watson, Scott Hess, Mark Lane, Tom Pierce, Gene Troia, Julie Potter

Others Present: Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Kim Swasey, Dave Grundy, Bruce Johnson, Renee Carpenter, Carolyn Shapiro, David Coburn, Ellen Seeger

Call to Order: 7:11pm

The Chair opened the public hearing by reading the warning: “The East Montpelier Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 7:00 at the new fire station (54 Village Acres) in East Montpelier Village. For more information about the Town Plan or to make comments contact Rick Hopkins, PC Chair (802-229-4375) or Jean Vissering PC Vice-Chair (802-223-3262). Written comments can be sent to: Planning Commission, PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651, or by e-mail to eastmontadmin@comcast.net. The Draft Plan is available at www.emsignpost.com or at the Town Offices. Public comments on this draft plan will be taken until April 4, 2013.

The pages containing maps in this draft are not numbered but appear at the end of each chapter. A number of map errors have been identified and will be corrected in the final draft. Other changes will be made to address public comments. Formatting in the final plan will also be changed.”

The Chair gave an overview of the Town Plan and the development process undertaken by the PC. The Town Plan is useful for Act 250 hearings, securing grant funds and used by other towns and committees in town. The current draft was created by many people in town. The current Town Plan expires in June 2013 and the PC plans to give a final draft to the SB in April 2013. The comment period is through April 4, 2013.

Table of Contents

About East Montpelier

A Look at the Town

- Pg 9 – labels are confusing on the Household Income Graph, need a top label
- Adjust colors on graphs/maps throughout the plan

Town Government

- Add goal – elected officials reflect population of town (i.e., gender, race, background)
- Corresponding action – provide leadership training and empowerment through education and recruitment
- Familiarize public on roles in town – provide job descriptions

Community Resources

Historic Resources

- Pg 36 – North Montpelier survey errors – Historical Society has sent a letter to the state asking for corrections, Dave Coburn will send the letter to the Chair, maybe will include it as an appendix
- Actions – should/shall discussion

Public Services

Energy

- Pg 44 – Kingsbury Hydro Electric – added 220 photovoltaic panels in Jan 2012; Dave Grundy volunteered to check with Robbie Porter on the details
- Pg 46 – first Action – spell out photovoltaic
- Pg 45 – is it possible to get the number of households that net meter?

Natural Resources

Water Supplies & Aquifers

- Pg 76 – extract should be withdrawal; extract implies mechanical process, withdrawal could be natural process
- Pg 77 – expand on ‘interested person’ status; more education needed
- Pg 79 – 1st bullet – should be East Montpelier Community Groundwater Study Group
- Make sure town is protected from any commercial water bottling company
- Pg 80 – Montpelier Springs well head protection area could be larger; might not be able to be changed; PC can ask state to check accuracy

Wetland, Waterways & Wildlife

- Pg 69 – 3rd paragraph – should be Vermont River Conservancy
- Next paragraph – note ‘6-acre pond know as Coburn Pond’
- Pg 70 – pond and shoreline - ‘left intact’ should be ‘protected’
- Pg 71 – flashier; change wording to ‘flash water flow’

Land Use

Protected Land Map – doesn't include the Benton property or Soule property; PC will review

Villages

- Pg 89 – Riverbend Store and post office are gone; check with Alan Goldman on his plans for the property
- Goal/action – inventory resources and protect from privatization
- No public access to North Montpelier Pond; Calais fishing access is last public access to the pond
- Pg 91 – review Riverbend/PO goal, may be moot; Renee Carpenter happy to gather facts

Carolyn Shapiro appreciates the hard work by the PC and the fact that comments have been incorporated into the plan. The Chair noted that any photos of the town anyone is willing to share will be added and credited on face pages in the final Town Plan. The PC will put a reminder of the April 4th deadline on Front Porch Forum.

Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:53p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary