

## Minutes of the East Montpelier Planning Commission

**APPROVED 5/17/12**

May 3, 2012

PC Members Present: Rick Hopkins (Chair), Jean Vissering, Kim Watson, Tom Pierce, Jack Pauly, Gene Troia

Others Present: Dina Bookmyer-Baker (Zoning Administrator), Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Julie Potter

**Call to Order:** 7:04pm

**Public Comment:** None

**Changes to Agenda:** Move ZA Report to first

### ZA Report

- Goddard College/Goldman mediation update – latest solution is to move the big sign back and hang a sign for Northwoods Village Apartments underneath; the ZA wants to know if this should also be considered exempt; the internal kiosk will be moved back onto Goldman's property (instructional/directional); the PC agreed that this sounds like a good solution.
- Governor Shumlin is purchasing a 29-acre parcel and building a house in town
- Purple yurt on Towne Hill Road – apparently no business is being conducted there

### Election of Officers

Chairman – **Motion: move to nominate Rick Hopkins.** Made: Vissering, second: Watson **Vote on Motion:** Passed 6-0

Vice Chairman – **Motion: move to nominate Jean Vissering.** Made: Watson, second: Pauly **Vote on Motion:** Passed 6-0

Corresponding Secretary – **Motion: move to nominate Kim Watson.** Made: Troia, second: Pauly **Vote on Motion:** Passed 6-0

### Report on VLCT Planning & Zoning Forum

Forum was attended by Tom Pierce and ZA. Most interesting topics:

- 1) Time limits on all permits – take action in a timely manner
- 2) Deemed approval – 45 days from vote; if DRB decision is issued after that, the applicant still needs to appeal to Environmental Court
- 3) Difference between waiver and variances – variances are hard to get because you have to meet all five criteria; very restrictive in Vermont

### Town Plan Discussion

PC reviewed draft proposed chapters to the town plan

#### Town Government (Bruce Johnson)

- Include formation of Fire District; refer reader to map in Water Supplies chapter
- DRB – PC members serve as alternates
- Indicate which positions are paid; elected & appointed; paid vs. stipend
- Remove Take Part action
- Remove PC report on progress under Actions

Forest Resources – tabled to 5/17 meeting

#### Agriculture (Bruce Chapell)

- Refer to LESA map, if it exists
- Main themes in survey: local food, open land/space, rural character, family farms
- Identify source of sales figures
- Accepted Practices – note issues instead of spelling out statutes; issues between farming and non-farmers will always happen
- Organic versus non-organic
- Water quality & agriculture
- Specify responsibility for Actions

Review status list: Not received

- Recreation
- Finance
- Education (U-32)
- Forest Resources – received but not reviewed

### Review of Minutes

April 19, 2012

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes as presented.** Made: Vissering, second: Troia; **Vote on Motion:** Passed 6-0

**DRB Report**

Farnham – DRB scheduled a site visit for 5/15 at 6:30pm  
Act 250 hearing on Goddard College Wood Chip Heating Facility

Next meeting Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 7:00pm

**Motion to adjourn.** Made by Ms. Vissering; seconded by Ms. Watson. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:57p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary*