

December 20, 2012

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

Others Present: Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Julie Potter, Tony Klein

Call to Order: 7:03pm

Public Comment: Tony Klein – he thanked the PC for their work; as the Chair of the Natural Resources and Energy Committee he hopefully will be spending more time with the PC; there is no state-wide planning process, but across the state there have been many comments on wind power projects; there needs to be discussion on what we want the state to look like. The PC would like Mr. Klein to review the Town Plan and provide feedback.

Change to Agenda: Move PSB discussion to first item
Add Energy, remove Wastewater – move to 1/3/13

Discussion of Selectboard Letter to Public Service Board (PSB) Regarding Its sub-10kw Net-Metered Installation Certificates of Public Good (CPG) Application Procedure

Mr. Klein noted that this issue illustrates the impact of a state energy policy. The goal was to remove barriers in order to get renewable energy projects done, but the problem of not notifying the towns needs to be solved. Mr. Klein met with officials from the PSB to talk about posting CPGs of under 10kw systems on their website. After hearing from the town, he feels that having all applications notified to the towns is a good idea. The installation season is short and more people want these projects to be completed so the problem needs to be solved. The registration form needs to be more clear and detailed, providing useful information and a site map. Mr. Klein asked that the PC contact him with any questions, comments or problems. A couple suggestions from the PC: 1) message to the developers to make their projects aesthetically pleasing, and 2) if agriculture projects have to notify town and meet setbacks, these energy projects should have to at least meet minimal requirements.

Town Plan: Discussion of Public Comments on Draft Chapters

Economic Development:

- Vissering will put census data in boxes
- Good to go with additions

Energy:

- Goals – added paragraph regarding Local Food Producers
- Page 2, column 2 – expanded paragraph on installation of energy-producing facilities
- Good to go with minor changes

Townpeople:

- Changes to active groups: EMSLI, Jean Cate, Town Services Officer (moved from Town Govt), Friends of Coburn Pond, Front Porch Forum, town website
- Select Board should be Selectboard consistently throughout the documents
- Good to go

Town History/Historic Resources:

- History section up to Current Status should be in A Look at the Town section, refer the reader to A Look at the Town
- Added goals/actions back in
- Added actions regarding historic resource inventory and correcting error in North Montpelier Village inventory
- Look at should/shall issue after next draft in all sections
- Good to go with changes

Social Services:

- Need 4 churches identified on map; add Lighthouse Christian Church
- Reference East Montpelier Facilities Map
- Good to go with changes

A Look at the Town:

- Julie Potter will find data on percentage of jobs in region for EM, Barre and Montpelier and will look at 2010 census data
- Population data is interesting and can be commented on
- Some housing data can go in the Housing section

Items to review at 1/3 meeting:

- Wastewater
- Regional Issues
- Recreation
- Housing

- Wetlands, Waterways and Wildlife
- Earth Resources
- Fire & Disaster
- Police & Ambulance

Review of Minutes

November 15, 2012

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Troia, second: Lane

Vote on Motion: Passed 8-0

December 6, 2012

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Lane, second: Vissering

Vote on Motion: Passed 8-0

ZA Report

Nothing new to report.

DRB Report

- No appeal on the Sanfacon decision yet
- Swenson – will come to the DRB to combine all properties under one permit and add truck rental; storage will be by square foot; the fire department requests for the last permit were not done; signs will be consolidated from four to three.

Other Business

- Emergency Relief Assistance Fund – the federal rules of reimbursing the cost of repairs will change in 2014. By Oct 2014, in order to receive the maximum refund, towns need to have the following:
 1. VT Road and Bridge Standards
 2. Flood Hazard Bylaws
 3. Hazard Mitigation Plan
 4. Emergency Operations Plan
 5. A) Community Rating System
B) Fluvial Erosion Bylaw

EM has items 1-4; look to complete with 5A or 5B before October 2014.

- EMSLI has a purchase agreement on the Cassani property off Route 2. It is a 7-acre property and they are looking to do a 20-unit structure. The project will need conditional use review because it is a multifamily dwelling. The PC suggested holding a public hearing on the project to get community feedback.
- Geologic & Groundwater Map – the Chair shared a draft of the map; is trying to get it laminated

Motion to adjourn. Made by Mr. Lane; seconded by Ms. Watson. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary