

December 7, 2017

PC Members Present: Jean Vissering (Chair), Julie Potter, Mark Lane, Jack Pauly, Kim Watson, Jay Stewart

Others Present: Kristi Flynn (Recording Clerk), Joseph Kiefer

Call to order: 7:03pm

Changes to Agenda – None

Public Comment – None

Discussion with Joseph Kiefer, Food Justice Consultant: Food Security Planning

Mr. Kiefer stated that the Farm to Plate initiative started 7 years ago with a goal to decrease the amount of food imported into Vermont from 95% to 90% within 10 years. Currently, the amount of local food is at 10% and growing. Mr. Kiefer is a part of the Food Access Team, whose responsibilities include making sure everyone has access to local food, and education (growing, cooking, preserving). Mr. Kiefer then reviewed the history of food security in Vermont. He talked about food assessment planning at a local level. There are resources available: Waterbury-Duxbury (integrated into their Town Plan), NE Kingdom (regional food system planning) and Bennington (completed food access survey). Ms. Potter asked about funding sources for the town. Mr. Kiefer was not sure but mentioned the NE Grassroots Environment Fund as a possible source. He noted that the Vermont Foodbank is purchasing more local produce than ever before. The PC is interested in exploring food-centric planning. Mr. Kiefer reviewed some of the Town Plan sections and found some areas where language on "food security" could be added. He gave his suggestions to the Chair. There was discussion of the definition of "local." Ms. Watson felt that it was within a 3-hour driving radius. Ms. Potter suggested considering creating a Food Committee.

East Montpelier 2018 Town Plan Update: Review of Formatted Draft 2018 Town Plan Sections: Front Matter, Chapters 1-5

The Chair noted the following:

- The new TP will have one-column design, instead of two-column, with 12-point font
- Format of goals and actions has changed
- Maps will have their own section instead of being embedded in the sections
- Executive summary identifies most important features of the update and highlights new sections; will also include 10-20 high priority actions
- Each section will have goals, policies, and actions
- Last section will have an implementation table of all the actions

Acknowledgements – let the Chair know if others need to be added

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Well-organized
- Check last Town Report for additional accomplishments
- Mention receipt of grant money to review the land use regulations

Chapter 2: About East Montpelier

- Page 2 – remove reference to Quarry Works (in Calais)
- Add more space between major sections (i.e., A, B, C, etc.)
- Page 5 – consider mentioning EM has the most farmland of the towns in the area
- Page 6 – change font of '2014' in the text box

Chapter 3: Town Government and Finance

- Page 1, line 24 – remove 'for'
- Page 3, line 28 – remove bullet; line 17 – unbold "The"
- Page 8, lines 38-43 – figures are updated, remove the highlight

Chapter 4: Community Resources

- Page 2, line 8 – change to 'its'; line 12 – include EM Trails' website
- Section B: Community Health (new section)
 - Page 4, line 1 – remove last sentence regarding bikes
- Section C: Recreation
 - Page 5, line 26 – check on the Benton reference, is it okay to mention as part of the Cross VT Trails
 - Page 7, line 12 – remove if Recreation Board is not a non-profit, check with the Town Treasurer, Don Welch
 - Page 8 – water recreation was moved from the Wetlands chapter
- Section D: Trails
 - Check with Jennifer Boyer on the miles of trails
 - Check with Gully Jumpers or VAST for miles of snowmobile trails
 - Page 10, line 15 – include 'to' before Union-32
 - Consider including language on hunting and fishing; Mr. Stewart will draft some language under Recreation

- Section E: Historic Resources
 - Page 12, lines 17-18 – remove highlighted sentence

Chapter 5: Public Services

- Section A: Social Services
 - Page 2, lines 10-11 – yes, reference on the map
- Section C: Emergency Services
 - Page 3, line 39 – include 'towns' of EM and Calais
 - Page 5, line 3 – change 'outlined' to 'described'; lines 20-26 – include in a text box instead
 - Page 5 Police – consider including Vermont State Police calls to EM
- Section D: Hazard Mitigation and Flood Resilience
 - Goals/actions – include Hazard Mitigation Plan by reference

Discussion on Upcoming Planning Commission Meeting Schedule: Special Meeting on December 14, 2017, Consideration of Decision to Hold or Cancel the December 21, 2017 Meeting

The PC agreed to hold a special meeting on 12/14 to review the rest of the Town Plan draft and the maps in draft form. The PC further agreed to cancel the 12/21 meeting. There was a discussion on the public meetings on the Town Plan: one of January 18, 2018 and one on February 1, 2018. The meetings will consist of a small presentation and receipt of public comments. The meetings can be pushed back if the plan is not ready. There was some concern among the PC on whether the Energy Plan and the Energy section will be ready on time; the PC needs to get some clarification on the Energy Plan approval process. For a March 8, 2018 hearing, the 30-day warning date is February 5, 2018; the plan would then be passed on to the SB on March 19, 2018.

Presentation of 2018 Municipal Planning Grant Conceptual Schedule

Ms. Potter noted that we must send this out for bids for a consultant; we cannot simply hire the CVRPC. She will talk with the ZA regarding creating an RFP (Request for Proposal). The PC will review the proposals that are submitted.

Update on East Montpelier Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee

No update; they will not meeting until the test pits are completed.

Review Minutes

November 16, 2017

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Ms. Watson, second: Mr. Lane

Vote on Motion: Passed 6-0

ZA Report

Three new permits since last meeting

DRB Report

Nothing new to report

Other Business

- Discussion regarding the Town Hill/Gallison Hill/Brazier Roads intersection study.
- Capital Improvement Committee – the Chair spoke to the committee about requesting funding for village infrastructure; the committee would need firm estimates for items such as sidewalks and septic/water systems. The Chair will invite them to come to a future PC meeting.

Motion to Adjourn. Made: Ms. Watson, second: Mr. Lane. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Clerk