

February 1, 2018

**Special Meeting – Public Forum**

PC Members Present: Jean Vissering (Chair), Julie Potter, Mark Lane, Jack Pauly, Jay Stewart, Norm Hill, Kim Watson, Ray Stout, Scott Hess

Others Present: Bruce Johnson (Zoning Administrator), Kristi Flynn (Recording Clerk), Ginny Burley, Lindy Biggs, Loring Starr, Erik Esselstyn

**Call to order:** 7:02pm

The Chair thanked the PC members, particularly Julie Potter who put the document together. Edie Miller is editing the plan for grammar. She pointed to the Acknowledgements section for all the people who have helped. Plan going forward is a 30-day warning for a formal hearing, probably sometime in March. After passing the document on to the SB, the SB must hold two hearings. The Chair highlighted the major changes in the plan. Main differences: no longer two columns, maps are in their own section at the end, and goals/policies/actions at the end of each section (also included in an Implementation section). Many goals were eliminated because they were either not doable within the next 8 years or already being done. The seven top priority actions are included in the Executive Summary, as well as the items that have been accomplished since the last plan. Big changes: hazard mitigation plan, infrastructure chapter including the new Energy section, realistic goals in housing, added new air quality section, new community health section, new forest integrity chapter (new statutory requirements – shown on map 11), identification of specific scenic resources shown on map 12), chapter 10 (Land Use) includes a new future land use map.

**Comments/Questions:**

- Ms. Biggs – any comments on zoning changes in the village? Village Master Plan will be included by reference in the Town Plan; PC has received mostly positive comments on the village zoning; because of the concerns with density, the minimum lot size was increased from ¼-acre to ½-acre
- Ms. Burley – feels the PC has done a fabulous job and appreciates the job they’ve done; she appreciates the amount of health information that was included in the new draft; she brought some literature on what is being done in the state
- Ms. Starr – Department of Health is looking at the climate of health and how it pertains to hazard mitigation plans
- Ms. Starr – regarding the goals Chapter 11, page 17 – the goals that encourage vegetation also may limit bike paths; where are we in terms of public transportation? Any thoughts about parking lots along County Road in order to get people using a bus/van – the Chair noted that it could be elaborated on in the Energy section; Julie noted that GMTA is reviewing whether their routes are in the right places
- Ms. Biggs - Any discussion on converting to electric school buses? Ms. Biggs noted that it’s being talked about at the state level; discussion regarding using buses for additional public transportation
- Ms. Starr – consider making the chapter headings as live links; figure out a way to jump to sections; it is a really impressive document, well organized and well thought out
- Mr. Esselstyn – thanks to the PC for all the hard work; he would like to see a new chapter on climate change and the end of forever abundant oil, he talked about organic goods, agriculture as we know it will not be the same in the future; would like to see acknowledgement of this fact and preservation of agricultural protection
- Mr. Esselstyn – Any funding on the horizon for a sewage plant in the village? It is definitely one of the goals of the PC; looking at community-based systems
- Ms. Biggs – wondered if the PC talked to any experts on innovative solutions? Talk with Ryan Case; he spoke with the LaPerle Committee
- Mr. Esselstyn – feels that this plan has planted a lot of seeds that may flower in the future

The Chair thanked all of our guests for coming and sharing their thoughts. The public hearing will happen in March, so pass the word and encourage others to read the plan.

Adjourned at 8:02pm

**Regular Meeting**

**Call to order:** 8:10pm

**Changes to Agenda** – None

**Public Comment** – Ms. Burley noted that she is willing to work on the health elements of the Town Plan

**East Montpelier 2018 Town Plan Update: Review of Feedback from February 1 Public Forum, Discussion on Potential Revisions to Plan, discussion on Public Hearing Warning**

Review of feedback – RPC and state gave comments on forest integrity section; will forward to the PC. We are the first town in the state to deal with this issue; Chair and Ms. Potter will work with the RPC on what language should be included in our plan. The plan as written is approvable. A general report on the changes needs to be written prior to passing the plan to the SB. The Chair will draft a report, and Ms. Potter will work on revisions to the plan to be ready for the next meeting. Mr. Hill noted that he has received comments that the plan is too long and removing the history in each section would cut down on the size. Ms. Potter has gotten other

comments from people who like the layout of the document. There are also numerous new statutory requirements that needed to be added since the last update. The PC discussed public transportation along County Road and Route 14. PC will look at the pages with changes at the next meeting, plan to warn for the hearing and look at revisions to maps.

**2018 Municipal Planning Grant for Zoning Regulation Revisions: Update on Consultant RFQ and Discussion on Consultant Review Process**

At the 2/15 meeting, the PC will review the RFQ's that are due the day before. The PC will choose some consultants to interview at the first meeting in March. Depending on the number of applications received, the PC will decide at the 2/15 meeting to decide how to proceed. The PC may plan a special meeting to discuss the applicants. The selection criteria are stated in the RFQ. The PC will ask the same questions of each consultant and ask for references.

**Update on East Montpelier Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee**

No update

**Review Minutes**

January 18, 2018

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

**Vote on Motion:** Passed 9-0

**ZA Report**

1 new permit since last meeting

**DRB Report**

A meeting is scheduled for February 6 to discuss two sketch plan reviews.

**Motion to Adjourn.** Made: Mr. Hess, second: Mr. Stout. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Clerk*