

January 6, 2022

PC Members Present: Zach Sullivan (Chair), Richard Hall, Scott Hess, Clarice Cutler, Mark Lane, Spencer Hardy, Gianna Petito, Kim Watson

Others Present: Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Cort Richardson

Call to Order: 7:02pm

Changes to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Discuss Annual Report for Town Meeting

The Chair presented the draft report. Mr. Hess felt it captured the tenor of the PC's year. The PC discussed adding a thank you for Julie Potter for her service. The Chair will make the minor revisions suggested.

Discuss Zoning Update Hearing Plan

The PC discussed when to plan the public hearing and discussed whether to postpone or present a place to attend in person with a remote option. There are not any deadlines that have to be met but the main feeling of the PC was to plan the hearing to keep the process moving forward. The PC decided to plan for the February 17, 2022 meeting; Ms. Watson is willing to staff the in-person location. The hearing will be warned and adjusted if necessary. If there are any comments on the slides provided by Ms. Potter, please send them to the Chair and Ms. Potter.

Discuss Next Projects for the PC to take up

The PC made the following suggestions for next projects:

Ms. Petito:

- Forest connectivity
- Large parcels and the impact on agriculture operations
- Work with other groups in town
- Make downtown business-friendly – deal with the septic/water issue

Mr. Hess:

- Look at potentially using ARPA funds for town taking over Crystal Springs

Ms. Watson:

- Look at how Zone D was created and what can be done going forward; review what Calais has done with 1-acre minimum town-wide
- More affordable housing in town
- Look at conserved land in town

Mr. Sullivan:

- Look at development patterns and how they affect agriculture/forest

Ms. Cutler:

- The Conservation Commission could be very supportive to the PC – is it worth reminding the SB?
 - Consider fleshing out what the commission could help with
- Review Chapter 11 Goals and Actions

Energy Plan discussion

The Energy Committee is re-forming, haven't been active since 2017. Mr. Richardson reported that they helped draft the energy section for the current Town Plan and worked on siting for renewable utilities to give towns more deference in those projects. He had the following suggestions:

- Believes the CVRPC's energy plan work lines up fairly well with EM's goals
- Important to state the town's principal and get a plan in place
- Pick achievable, affordable goals
- If PC would like to modify the energy part of the Town Plan this year, he is willing to help and review the new state documents; don't wait for the Energy Committee to get re-started

Ms. Watson suggested that the PC should invite the Energy Committee to a meeting after March to make sure the groups are not duplicating efforts. Mr. Lane noted that the Energy Plan should be worked on while the PC has the time. It will be important to see what state the plan is in and decide how best to move forward. Mr. Hess would like to take advantage of the Energy Committee's enthusiasm. Ms. Petito and Ms. Watson will take a stab at drafting some language regarding the large parcel issue and articulate a clear set of goals and actions; Ms. Watson's objective is to merge districts to keep agriculture and forest intact while allowing development at the same time.

Updates

- Capital Improvement Committee –no update
- Energy Committee – no update but there's hope
- Resilient Roads Committee – ash trees along Cummings Road/North Street/Sparrow Farm Road have been marked; a bid has been put out to remove the trees
- Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – no update
- Town Plan Amendments – moving forward but nothing to review

ZA Report

- No update

DRB Report

- No update

Review Minutes

December 16, 2021

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as written. Made: Mr. Lane; second: Mr. Hardy

Vote on Motion: Passed 8-0

Motion to Adjourn. Made: Ms. Petito, second: Mr. Lane. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:32p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary