

March 17, 2022

PC Members Present: Zach Sullivan (Chair), Clarice Cutler, Spencer Hardy, Gianna Petito, Lauren Oates, Mark Lane

Others Present: Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary)

Call to Order: 7:06pm

Changes to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Review PC Rules of Procedure

The PC reviewed the Rules of Procedure, which are the same as last year. Ms. Petito wondered if the PC would be interested in adding a land acknowledgement statement to the beginning of each meeting. It shows the group's appreciation for the land that was inhabited before us. Ms. Petito is willing to look to see what other groups in the state might be doing; maybe it should be worked on for next year. The PC may explore if this statement might be meaningful to some of the residents.

Review Procedures for Election of Officers

The PC reviewed the procedure for electing officers, as well as the responsibilities of the officers. Mr. Sullivan is willing to be the Chair again; Ms. Watson may be interested in the Chair or Vice Chair position. Ms. Cutler is fine with being the Vice Chair again and she is fine if she is not.

Discuss CVRPC Representative Position

The Chair noted that this is an important position as it is all dealing with planning topics. Ms. Cutler is the current representative but does not have the time to attend every meeting. She reported that many of the topics are of interest to the PC, with a very wide range of topics and speakers. With ARPA funds being discussed, she feels that it is vital that the town have representation. The in-person meetings take place in Montpelier, but Ms. Cutler feels that remote options will continue for a while. Each member town has one representative and one alternate, with one vote. The representatives are appointed by the SB. The PC discussed having the representatives attend on a rotating basis; it was thought that it may be best to have one person attend most of the meetings. It would be ideal to have the representative be someone from the PC. A representative from the CVRPC will attend the first meeting in April.

Discuss Public Engagement for Energy Plan

The Chair noted that the PC hasn't done very much public engagement on this current draft. It would be good to get feedback from residents on pieces of the plan, particularly actions and goals. Maybe the PC could find someone who is interested in helping with the plan, as well. What kind of things do we want help from the public on? The siting issue is one that many people will be interested in, possibly the transportation and renewable energy sections, as well. The PC discussed the possibility of implementing incentives for decreased energy use. Ms. Petito suggested looking again at what sections are not in the Town Plan and brainstorming on what sections should be brought to the public. The PC discussed using a dot process with the PC and the public to come up with a priority list of topics. Mr. Hardy suggested sending out a digital survey to the residents. The Chair would like to also have an in-person forum to receive different types of opinions and comments. Ms. Petito believes that the PC needs to work on a frame or a draft before bringing it to the public. The Chair, Ms. Cutler and Ms. Petito will develop a work plan for the PC going forward. The timeline for this process will probably not start until after some already scheduled hearings, such as the one on cell tower siting. The Chair was considering starting in earnest in the fall.

Discuss Energy Plan (Pathways Section 9: Renewable Energy Siting and Capacity)

The PC discussed the impressions received by reading other towns' plans. It was very useful to see what the data sources were, when noted. Ms. Petito noted the siting standards were both regional and local, with a map overlay. Some towns specified areas and roads that were off-limits for siting on their map overlays. The town plans were chosen by recommendation of the CVRPC. The PC discussed how to deal with preferred sites; how does the town encourage it? Possibly the town could sell the development rights for a town parcel. It is worth getting opinions from the DRB on what would work for their development discussions.

Updates

- Capital Improvement Committee –no update
- Energy Committee – no update
- Resilient Roads Committee – the shade tree document has been drafted and sent to the state for review
- Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – presentation on a climate action plan; approvals of town energy plans
- Updates to Select Board re: Zoning and Town Plan Amendments – the Chair attended the last SB meeting and updated them on what the PC is working on; one member was interested that the PC is starting to work on the energy plan

ZA Report

- Two new permits

DRB Report

- No meeting since last PC meeting

Review Minutes

February 17, 2022

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Ms. Cutler; second: Ms. Petito

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0-1 (Oates abstained)

March 3, 2022

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Ms. Cutler; second: Mr. Hardy

Vote on Motion: Passed 6-0

Other Business

Ms. Cutler asked if the PC should take up the issue of Crystal Springs. The PC believes that the SB is responsible for this issue. The ZA will know if the SB has discussed it.

Motion to Adjourn. Made: Ms. Petito, second: Mr. Lane. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary