

## *Minutes of the East Montpelier Planning Commission*

***Approved 9/1/22***

July 7, 2022

PC Members Present: Zach Sullivan (Chair), Clarice Cutler (via Zoom), Scott Hess, Kim Watson

Others Present: Deirdre Connelly, Zoning Administrator Tyson Brown

**Call to Order:** 7:08 pm

**Changes to Agenda:** None

**Public Comment:** None

### **Meet with Zoning Administrator Tyson Brown**

Chair Sullivan welcomed Mr. Brown and the present members introduced themselves. Chair Sullivan invited Mr. Brown to come to the Planning Commission with any questions on what a regulation means, how to interpret language, what the intention was behind a regulation, and any history on the regulations. Ms. Cutler recommended trainings from the Council on Rural Development, CVRPC, the League of Cities and Towns, and DEC.

Mr. Brown asked for the committee's advice on best practices for a situation where a property owner built a driveway over their neighbor's property line. The committee pointed to Section 7.7 on Violations and Enforcement. Ms. Cutler also recommended reaching out to other neighboring towns or the CVRPC for procedures or best practices.

### **Energy Plan Work Plan**

The PC reviewed the efficiency and transportation edits to the Energy Work Plan.

- Ms. Watson reviewed the Transportation edits she made to the document
  - She updated the Transportation Energy Data and recommended adding some additional local data to this section, including data around ridership on school and GMT buses, with the intention that the data may help members of the public to make transportation decisions. Ms. Watson also updated the Transportation section with information about the GMT bus routes that stop at the Park and Ride facility in East Montpelier Village
  - Ms. Cutler offered an idea for a walk or bike to work week as something the town could advertise on Front Porch Forum to build awareness about other means of transportation. Committee members noted that this could be a good initiative for an Energy Committee to work on
  - Mr. Hess recommended adding "as of [date]" to the bus route information for clarity and to rephrase the section on town vehicles to something like "as vehicles come up for replacement consider electric options" to keep things open for change in the future
- Ms. Cutler reviewed the Conservation and Efficiency edits she made to the document
  - A question was raised about the language around an Energy Committee in the document. Chair Sullivan suggested that until we have an Energy Committee, the PC should be the primary voice on the energy plan

- The committee discussed the building efficiency goal in Act 174 and agreed that it would be great to know if the town has met this goal and to include that information in the document
- Ms. Watson agreed with Ms. Cutler's suggestion to add more details about town building renovations for efficiency. Ms. Cutler noted that it will be good for the town to lead as an example of building efficiency and Chair Sullivan added that details on past renovations will help to explain why the town doesn't have plans for upcoming efficiency renovations. Ms. Cutler will ask Rosie or Denise for more details on the past renovations
- Committee members recommended adding data and examples of efficiency renovations made by residents, farms, and businesses in the town
- Ms. Cutler and Ms. Watson will resend their edits for the next meeting.

### **Updates**

- **Capital Improvement Committee-** The committee hasn't met and has no updates other than an item for the annual request on the agenda for the Selectboard meeting on Monday, July 11.
- **Energy Committee-** no update
- **Resilient Roads Committee-** no update
- **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission-** no update
- **Selectboard-**no update

Chair Sullivan noted that there will be a public hearing on town plan amendments on Monday, July 11. The changes to the land use and development regulations will go in effect Monday, July 11 as long as no further issues or comments are raised by the public.

### **ZA Report**

None.

### **DRB Report**

There will be no meeting this month. Ms. Cutler shared that there was a special meeting of the DRB on June 21. During that meeting the Bolduc application and the preliminary plan for Kitchen Sync were both approved. The next hearing will likely be in August.

### **Review Minutes**

The discussion of the minutes from June 2, 2022 and June 16, 2022 was deferred to a future meeting.

### **Other Business**

None.

Meeting closed at 8:18 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Deirdre Connelly.*