

RUTLAND TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING MAY 25, 2017
7:00 P.M.
RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Present: Ms. Barbara Pulling, Mr. Dana Peterson, Mr. Howard Burgess, Mr. Fred Nicholson, Mr. Jerry Stearns, Mr. Norman Cohen, Mr. Alan Biederman

- Meeting called to order by Ms. Pulling at 7:10 P.M.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Mr. Cohen moved to approve. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. Mr. Peterson requested two grammatical errors be corrected. Mr. Nicholson moved to approve the minutes and corrections. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Mr. Cohen abstained from the vote.

Town of Rutland/West Rutland Pedestrian/Bike Path:

Mr. Peterson explained the Rutland Town Select Board (RTSB) would like the Commission's input in the project. Mr. Burgess presented information from Town Administrator Mr. Joseph Zingale, Jr. with his comments on the project. Mr. Peterson informed the Commission the RTSB did not give a time line for their comments. Ms. Pulling suggested tabling the project until after the Commission provides the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) with their thoughts on the Renewable Energy Plan. Mr. Biederman suggested the Commission obtain more information from the RTSB as this study is supposed to be part of the Smart Growth Plan yet this study seems to be freestanding. Mr. Cohen suggested the Commission drive U.S. Business Route 4 and have someone point where the project will go. Mr. Nicholson stated that because there are water and sewer hook-up opportunities to re-purpose the land on U.S. Business Route 4 and cited the Complete Streets law which requires lawmakers to address all modes of transportation when re-purposing land in order to obtain funds for improvements. Mr. Biederman stated the RTSB should let the Commission know if they are serious about the Smart Growth Plan as they often send things for the Commission to look at that they don't know what to do with and that is a waste of time. Mr. Biederman stated that unless the Board and Commission know there are federal funds available it is a hypothetical exercise.

Mr. Biederman moved to table reviewing the project until the Commission gets more information from the RTSB and complete the Renewable Energy Project (REP). Mr. Cohen said that he will not support the motion. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-10Mr. Cohen voted no.

Otter Creek Projects One and Two:

The Commission discussed the Memorandum of Understanding for Otter Creek Projects One and Two that the RTSB tabled until their next meeting. Ms. Pulling presented an email from Annette Smith of Vermont Clean Environment with her concerns about the projects. Mr. Nicholson will present the email to the Select Board at the next meeting as a Representative of the RRPC.

Act 174-Renewable Energy Plan:

Mr. Stearns requested the RRPC provide the Commission with a clean map with roads only and no color.

Ms. Pulling talked with the Public Service Department (PSB) regarding Viewsheds and if the Commission decides to include Viewsheds in the REP it will require a certified aesthetic consultant analysis report. Ms. Pulling said the PSB suggested the Commission look at the Viewsheds to determine if there is any conflict with solar resources. Mr. Biederman said his impression was that if there PSB is requiring reports from the towns why is there no financial assistance for the Towns. Ms. Pulling stated the funding was only for data and maps. Mr. Biederman said he will talk with some landscape architects and get prices to present to the RTSB.

Ms. Pulling said she has been talking with other Towns who have given her examples of different ways to create an analysis report. Mr. Biederman stated that an analysis of viewsheds will be valuable information for the Town for future projects. Mr. Peterson said that it will allow to Commission to not make arbitrary decisions in the future. Ms. Pulling said she will bring up the issue of funding for an analysis at the next RTSB meeting.

The Commission reviewed the updated map Mr. Stearns created and discussed options of creating the REP.

After some discussion Mr. Peterson suggested the Commission create a list of conflicts between the viewsheds and identified resource areas.

Ms. Pulling distributed implementation information for the Commission to review before the next meeting.

Mr. Peterson moved to adjourn. Mr. Stearns seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

