

RUTLAND TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2017

7:00 P.M.

RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Present: Ms. Barbara Pulling, Mr. Dana Peterson, Mr. Fred Nicholson, Mr. Norman Cohen

- Meeting called to order by Ms. Pulling at 7:20 P.M.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Ms. Pulling informed the Commission the Sun Common presentation has been postponed. Mr. Nicholson moved to approve the agenda with the correction. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of minutes May 25, 2017**

Mr. Peterson moved to approve. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. The Commission cited minor corrections to the minutes. Mr. Peterson moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

**Old Business:**

**Service Road meeting Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Holiday Inn:**

Ms. Pulling informed the Commission the Select Board is searching for an engineering firm to design the road. Mr. Nicholson stated the State requires the Complete Streets concept be considered but it doesn't have to be implemented.

**Rutland Town/West Rutland Bike/Pedestrian Path:**

Ms. Pulling stated the Select Board (SB) would like feedback regarding the path. Ms. Pulling cited page 13 of the introduction handed out at the last meeting and said the SB would like to know the Commission's opinion if the proposed Plan is compatible with the Town Plan.

Mr. Peterson suggested when the Commission opens up the Town Plan for the Renewable Energy Project to add an amendment regarding these projects.

Mr. Peterson made a motion for Ms. Pulling to report back to the SB that upon review of Municipal Plan and the Marble Pathway Scoping Study the Commission finds cohesion in the concept of the proposed Bike/Pedestrian Path.

Mr. Cohen suggested saying that upon review of the scoping study, the Planning Commission finds no conflict with it the Bike Pedestrian Path and the Town Plan.

Mr. Peterson withdrew his motion.

After further discussion, Mr. Cohen stated that although the Commission sees the potential with the project it doesn't have a firm enough grasp so say more about it yet.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to state the Planning Commission sees no conflict with the Town Plan and Ms. Pulling will report on the discussion at the next SB meeting. Mr. Nicholson made a second to the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Sun Common Presentation:**

Ms. Pulling explained Sun Common is a commercial venture for getting communities to create their own solar power systems. Ms. Pulling asked the Commission if it was interested in pursuing the presentation or getting a broader prospective from other resources. Mr. Cohen said that the more information the Commission can gather the more it will be informed.

**Renewable Energy Plan (REP):**

Ms. Pulling explained that although there is no formal time line to create a REP she will have to have data to the State by the end of July 2017.

Ms. Pulling informed the Commission the current status of the maps- Existing Electric Generation Site, four Resource Maps, and Transmission and Distribution Resources. Ms. Pulling recommended the Green Mountain Power map be included in the REP as there are some challenges for adding to the grid which isn't uncommon in other towns.

Ms. Pulling asked the Commission to include a map of Preferred Locations and Impervious Areas, and asked if the Commission would like to add the State wide map of Preferred Locations. No action was taken.

The Commission discussed hiring an Aesthetic Consultant for View Sheds. Mr. Nicholson stated that any language that goes into the REP regarding View Sheds and restrictions has to be compatible with the current Future Land Use Map in the Town Plan.

Ms. Pulling stated that other Towns do not like the regional approach of Current Use as they feel it is a financial transaction with a landowner and the State and it shouldn't have anything to do with how the Towns plan their individual REP. Mr. Peterson stated that if a landowner wants to use their land in the Project the Commission can't stop them. Mr. Nicholson said that if the project isn't on Town owned land the Commission can't do anything and the Commission isn't designating they are identifying. The Commission discussed the difference between designation and identification.

**Pathways:**

Ms. Pulling collected the Pathways ideas from the Commission for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Peterson moved to adjourn. Mr. Cohen said "so moved". Ms. Pulling stated the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

