

RUTLAND TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 6, 2017

7:00 P.M.

RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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

- Meeting called to order by Ms. Pulling at 7:05P.M.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Cohen stated he sent an email to Ms. Pulling to discuss the Rutland Town/West Rutland Bike/Pedestrian Path and would like to discuss it at the end of the meeting. Mr. Nicholson moved to approve the agenda with the addition. Mr. Stearns seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes June 15, 2017

The Commission made minor corrections to the minutes. Mr. Nicholson moved to approve with correction. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-2. Mr. Burgess and Mr. Stearns abstained from the vote.

Public Comment:

Town resident Mr. Ed Dumas was present and stated he wants to deed some of his land to his son. Mr. Dumas said there was a question of the land was Glebe Land and it is not. Mr. Dumas presented copies of the maps for the Commission to review. After some discussion Ms. Pulling asked Mr. Dumas to complete the Final Plat General Requirements for the next Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Dumas said he has a permit from the State for building on the property.

The Commission completed the Subdivision Application with Mr. Dumas.

Mr. Nicholson moved to accept the material presented and a Public Hearing set for July 27, 2017 regarding the Dumas subdivision. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Ms. Pulling presented the Flow Restoration Plan and the draft Town Ordinance regarding storm water in the Moon Brook watershed that is required by the State of Vermont under the MS 4 Permit. Ms. Pulling stated the Select Board will be having an informational meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. Ms. Pulling explained the role of the Planning Commission regarding enforcing the Ordinance.

Mr. Cohen expressed his concern about being trained to be able to understand and enforce the Ordinance as well as the need of a budget for counsel if necessary. Mr. Nicholson said the Commission needs to know the Ordinance, guidelines and regulations and treat everyone the same.

Ms. Pulling said that Flow Restoration Plan is a long term plan with best management practices in the water shed with suggestions and ideas for the Town.

Mr. Nicholson said the State is behind us and the Commission can call on them if necessary. Mr. Nicholson stated most often a compromise can be made with educating the residents with why the rules were drafted to begin with. Mr. Nicholson said Water Shed Management Consultant Mr. Andres Torrizo will be presenting at the Public Hearing and property owners affected have been notified of the informational meeting.

Mr. Nicholson asked if the Commission should consider the Ordinance regarding all water bodies in the Town before they become impaired like Moon Brook. Mr. Cohen suggested bringing the question to the Select Board and Mr. Torrizo at the informational meeting. Mr. Nicholson said the Select Board only wants to consider Moon Brook and is concerned about fairness to all residents. Discussion only, no action was taken.

Old Business:

Renewable Energy Plan (REP):

Ms. Pulling presented two estimates for the Aesthetic Consultant for the View Shed Analysis to be presented to the Select Board: Landworks in the amount of \$3,840.00 and Mr. TJ Boyle in the amount of \$21,365.00. Ms. Pulling said Mr. Boyle's estimate is more expensive because it is designed to work in our energy plan and any Act 250 defense. After discussion Ms. Pulling will contact both companies and ask for a short presentation at the next meeting either in person or via phone.

Pathway Strategies:

Ms. Pulling presented a list of strategies created by Mr. Cohen, Mr. Peterson and Ms. Pulling. Ms. Pulling asked the Commission to review the list and finalize it at the next meeting.

Maps:

The Commission discussed the decisions that will need to be made for the Renewable Energy Plan and how it will affect the Town Plan. After discussion Mr. Nicholson moved to take the Town portion of Northwood Park, the school portion of Northwood Park and the City controlled portion of Northwood Park out of the “unsuitable” or “constrained” category. Mr. Stearns seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Rutland Town/West Rutland Bike Pedestrian Path:

Mr. Cohen reported on a bike ride that he and Mr. Peterson took on the proposed Path and expressed his concerns regarding the Path and the logic behind it.

Mr. Nicholson pointed out that the Town now has municipal water and sewer and lots along the Path can be repurposed. Mr. Cohen said he couldn't see how a biker could ride continuously with all of the commerce along the Path.

Ms. Pulling Adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.