

Mendon Planning Commission Minutes May 6, 2019

Present: Justin Lindholm, Phil Douglas, Fred Bagley and Teri Corsones were present. The minutes of the April 1, 2019 Mendon Planning Commission meeting were approved with no changes.

Mendon Town Plan Review: Ed Bove and Amanda O'Connor from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission were present to continue the review of the Mendon Town Plan with members. Members reviewed the draft that Amanda provided with proposed revisions to date.

Amanda confirmed that the order of sections could be modified to highlight those aspects of the Town Plan that members would like to emphasize, in particular Economic Development and Recreation. This emphasis would be in keeping with results of past surveys, including the 2015 town-wide survey and the 2018 Town Meeting Day survey followed up by the feedback gathered during the potluck picnic gathering at the Mendon Recreation Area in June, 2018.

Members discussed modifications that would highlight the positives about living in Mendon, including its natural beauty, abundance of recreational opportunities, friendliness and collaboration among townspeople, the excellent school system, and the fact the number of households is on the increase. Members also asked about including photos that would illustrate the attributes, and Amanda encouraged members to send her the photos electronically so she could incorporate them into the relevant sections.

Amanda discussed the advantages of a Village Center Designation, including the status increase in future grants if a Village Center Designation is achieved. Amanda will provide additional details about the designation process once the Town Plan review is completed.

Members reviewed the different updated maps that Amanda provided, including maps detailing Future Land Use; Education, Transportation and Community Facilities; Water Resources; Forest and Wildlife Resources; and Habitat Blocks. With respect to the Water Resources map, members had questions about river corridors and whether the identification of corridors was overly subjective, versus the "cut and dry" identification of 50' setbacks. Amanda will review the Eddy Brook location in particular.

Regarding the Education, Transportation and Community Facilities map, members had questions about the "B22" roadway, including whether it was a discontinued road, and whether other roads in the vicinity were closed. Another question was whether Beaver Dam is still considered a dam since it has been drained.

Regarding the Future Land Use map, members had questions about delineating different types of conservation land, including National Forest lands and US Forest Service lands.

Amanda will incorporate the recommended changes into a new draft that she will circulate to members before the joint meeting with the Selectboard on May 9 at 6:00 p.m. The Selectboard would like to provide some preliminary feedback about the current draft at that meeting, before the May 31 deadline for the Town Plan draft. Both Amanda and Ed will be able to attend the May 9 meeting.

The next meeting of the Mendon Planning Commission is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Corsones