

Mendon Planning Commission Minutes (Draft)

June 1, 2020

Present: Fred Bagley, Justin Lindholm, Gary Sihler, Phil Douglas and Teri Corsones were present via a “Go to Meeting” platform, provided in conjunction with the State of Emergency that Governor Scott has declared, specifically Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, that authorize public bodies to meet electronically.

Instructions for accessing the meeting were on the Town of Mendon’s website. A mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there were problems with access was provided in the form of the following email address: mendonclerk@comcast.net.

There were no hearings noticed for June 1. The draft May 4, 2020 minutes were approved with no changes. Teri noted that the Select Board requested a joint Select Board/MPC Meeting to begin immediately following the conclusion of the MPC Meeting. The estimated start time for the Joint Meeting is 5:45 p.m.

Mendon Town Plan: Following the May 4 MPC meeting, Teri spoke with Larry Courcelle regarding the additional bypass language that the Select Board would like to add to the draft Mendon Town Plan. The language is as follows: “Rutland Bypass: The Town of Mendon opposes the construction of a highway bypass around Rutland City. Mendon’s position regarding the construction of a bypass around Rutland may be stated as follows: The construction of a bypass is not necessary, given current and future traffic volumes. The Agency of Transportation should pursue a limited upgrade of US 7 and US 4. A bypass in Mendon would have a direct adverse impact on Mendon properties. The Town has voted on two separate occasions to oppose a bypass in Mendon. There are no current plans to construct the bypass.”

The Select Board proposes to also add the following language to the Plan’s Transportation Section under “Actions”: “Oppose the construction of any major highway or bypass in the Town of Mendon.”

MPC members are in agreement with the proposed bypass language. MPC members will address any other proposed changes to the current draft of the

Mendon Town Plan when the Select Board schedules a public hearing on the Plan. The date of that public hearing has not yet been set.

Broadband Innovation Grant Letter of Support: Teri reported that on May 26 Amanda O'Connor from the RRPC asked if the MPC would like to submit a letter of support for an application that the RRPC is making to fund a feasibility study for a Broadband Innovation Grant through the Vermont Department of Public Service. Amanda indicated that the grant would help position the northern Rutland Region to connect to broadband. She also indicated that the RRPC will seek "Fiber to the Premises" broadband access.

Members reviewed the draft letter of support and agreed to submit the letter so long as it is clear in the letter that the MPC supports "Fiber to the Premises" broadband access, and not broadband access via cell towers. Teri will modify the draft letter of support to include that condition before the deadline of June 10 for the letter.

Joint Select Board/ MPC Meeting: The Select Board and the MPC reviewed the results of the recent A T & T balloon tests and the A T & T application in general. The Public information Session for the A T & T application is scheduled for June 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Sara indicated that post cards with information about the meeting were mailed to Mendon taxpayers and voters last week. Information was also posted on the Town of Mendon website. Because the Mendon Zoning Board of Adjustment was unable to attend the Joint Meeting on June 1, it was adjourned until Wednesday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m.

There is a scheduling conflict for the next monthly MPC meeting on the first Monday of the month (July 6). As a result, the next regular meeting of the Mendon Planning Commission will be scheduled for Monday, July 13, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Corsones