



Town of Bolton  
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway  
Bolton, VT 05676  
802-434-3064

## **Planning Commission Meeting Minutes**

April 13, 2015

6:00-8:00  
Bolton Town Office

Planning Commission members present: Linda Baker (Chair), Steve Barner, Jim Bralich, and Carol Devlin

Planning Commission members absent: Rodney Pingree

Also Present: Sharon Murray (Bolton Select Board and Development Review Board)

Clerk: Carol Devlin

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### **Agenda**

1. Public Comment
2. Minutes ~ March 9, 2015
3. Town Plan ~ Utilities
4. High Meadows Grant Update
5. CROs
6. Local Emergency Operations Plan
7. CCRPC and the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
8. Other communications/mail
9. Any other business
10. Adjournment

### **Call to Order**

Linda Baker called the meeting to order at 6:10.

### **Agenda Item #1 ~ Public Comment**

The floor was opened to public comment. There was none.

### **Agenda Item #2 ~ Minutes March 9, 2015 Meeting**

Jim Bralich made a motion to accept the minutes of March 9, 2015. Linda Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried (3-0).

**Agenda Item #3 ~ Town Plan ~ Utilities**

The PC discussed Jim Bralich's notes on the utilities subsection of the Community Facilities & Services section of the Town Plan. The following observations were made:

- Town regulations must protect groundwater supplies.
- To ensure source protection, the Town should do a ground water mapping survey or hydrology study.
- An updated inventory of public and shared water supplies is necessary. Known water sources include: Bolton Valley (multiple sources), Country Club Condominiums; Fernwood Manor; Jonesville; Smilie Memorial School; a shared well for the Town Office, the Bolton Fire Department and the Town Garage; a shared system for 4 residences off Joiner Brook.
- There are some concerns about the water quality of the well for municipal buildings. The PC recommends that the water be tested.
- The impact of snowmaking at Bolton Valley should be examined.
- Bolton Valley's water system and leach field have reached capacity thereby limiting development.
- The Bolton Valley leach field is also at capacity. Reserve leach field space has been established on some sites properties.

The PC had a lengthy discussion about the connection between water, drainage, erosion and stormwater, including the advantages and disadvantages of road management versus watershed management. Sharon Murray recommended including drainage as a utility. Suggestions for the to-do list re: stormwater management (section of the plan to be determined) include:

- Education
- Erosion control
- Drainage inventory
- Capital improvements
- The High Meadows grant
- Updating regulations
- CROs (Community Resilience Organizations)
- Better Back Roads Grants
- Limited Impact Development

CSWD is in the process of changing regulations. Most notably, recycling becomes mandatory on July 1, 2015. The SB will be reviewing the CSWD's Waste Management Plan. The PC discussed the challenges in discouraging trash burning and private dumping. They are health issues as well as environmental issues. Recommendations include:

- BCC sponsored bear education
- If the State discontinues funding for Green Up Day, the tradition should be continued at the local level with a community celebration.

**Agenda Item #4 ~ High Meadows Grant Update**

Carol Devlin stated that the ECHO Summit was very productive. She worked with a multi-town team on a grant application to the High Meadows Fund. Bolton worked with two Regional Planning Commissions (Chittenden County and Central Vermont) and four towns (Moretown, Waterbury, Duxbury and Richmond) to apply for a “Building Resilience in Vermont’s Watersheds” grant from the High Meadows Fund. The grant will take a multi-town approach to concerns related to flood resilience in the Mid-Winooski watershed. The scope of work includes technical assistance assessing culvert flow and road erosion, and education and outreach at the neighborhood level. Grants will be awarded sometime in May.

**Agenda Item #5 ~ CROs (Community Resilience Organizations)**

Carol Devlin and Sharon Murray explained the Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) which might be established in conjunction with the High Meadows Grant. In short, CROs are neighborhood organizations with three goals:

- Education, especially on issues related to stormwater management and erosion
- Emergency preparedness (e.g., emergency planning at the neighborhood level, identification of residents who need support and checking on them during an emergency)
- Activities at the local level (e.g., an annual Day of CROing to work on erosion mitigation projects such as planting on banks)

It was noted that apathy is strong as can be seen in the difficulty in finding volunteers for current town needs.

**Agenda Item #6 ~ Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)**

The SB needs to adopt a new LEOP by May 1, 2015. One of the problems is the plan is supposed include an Emergency Management Director and Committee. Bolton has had problems recruiting volunteers. Once Bolton has CROs they will fit into the plan. The Town Plan should make reference to the LEOP. Bolton Valley Resort and the West Bolton Golf Course were suggested as possible locations for emergency shelters.

**Agenda Item #7 ~ CCRPC and the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Sharon Murray is working with the CCRPC to develop the next Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. At the least the plan should be referenced in the Town Plan.

**Agenda Item #8 ~ other communications/mail**

- Emails from Karen Bates thanking the PC for inviting her and suggesting resources including: Better Back Roads, ERP Fund, a road maintenance workshop from Friends of the Winooski, Chris Brunelle to assess culvert flow.
- Waste Water Permits were approved for Haselton, Mallow and Montgomery/Fogg
- Waterbury is in the process of changing its Flood Hazard Area Regulations. Sharon suggested that the PC look at Waterbury's regulations regarding compensatory storage for the hazards section of the Town Plan.

**Agenda Item #9 ~ Any Other Business**

It was suggested that the Planning Commission take a tour of the town. It will be on the agenda for a summer meeting.

The PC discussed resident concerns about potential development in West Bolton.

The next PC meetings are May 11, June 8 and July 13. There will be no meeting in August.

**Agenda Item #10 ~ Adjournment**

Steve Barner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jim Bralich seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Carol Devlin  
Clerk, Planning Commission

*These minutes are unofficial until accepted.*

These minutes were read and accepted by a quorum of the Planning Commission on:

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*Linda Baker*

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For the Planning Commission