



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
802-434-5075

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2015
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Planning Commission members present: Linda Baker (Chair), Jim Bralich and Deb Shelby

Planning Commission members absent: Steve Barner and Rodney Pingree

Also present: Emily Nosse-Leirer (CCRPC) and Sharon Murray (SB & DRB)

Clerk: Carol Devlin

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
3. Minutes ~ September 14, 2015 and September 30, 2015
4. Community Engagement for the Town Plan
5. Meeting Schedule and Topics for the Remainder of 2015
6. All Hazard Mitigation Plan
7. Municipal Planning Grant and VLCT Fall Planning & Zoning Forum
8. Select Board Updates
9. Green Mountain Clean Energy - Deferred
10. Other communications/mail
11. Any other business
12. Adjournment

Call to Order

Linda Baker called the meeting to order at 6:05.

Agenda Item #1 ~ Public Comment

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

Agenda Item #2 ~ Minutes September 14, 2015 and September 30, 2015 Meetings

Deb Shelby made a motion to accept the minutes of September 14, 2015. Jim Bralich seconded the motion. The motion carried (3-0).

Jim Bralich made a motion to accept the minutes of September 30, 2015. Deb Shelby seconded the motion. The motion carried (3-0).

Agenda Item #4 ~ Community Engagement for the Town Plan

- The PC is sending thank you notes to the four hosts of our community engagement meetings:
 - Smilie Memorial Elementary School
 - Jim and Kim Kilpeck
 - Mountain Operations & Development (aka Bolton Valley Resort)
 - Jeff Brown, West Bolton Golf Course
- Emily Nosse-Leirer provided updates on the meetings and surveys
 - Planning Commission members have attended multiple meetings.
 - ~50 attended the Kick Off Meeting at Smilie
 - 15 people attended the Duxbury Neighborhood Forum
 - 27 people attended the Bolton Valley Neighborhood Forum
 - So far we have 64 responses to the survey
 - Emily will be sending out a more user friendly version of the raw data to date.
 - Complete information will be compiled after the fall community engagement campaign ends.
 - Emily distributed lists of comments at the meetings. Deb Shelby will post them to the website.
 - The next two meetings are Rt. 2 at Smilie on 10/15/15 and West Bolton at the Golf Course on 10/20/15.
 - Linda Baker and Carol Devlin will pick up food for the meetings.
- Deb led a discussion of when to contact people who have expressed interest in particular areas of plan. The PC decided to compile a list of people's interests and have short meetings in November based on area of interest.
- After the Duxbury Rd. Forum, it was suggested that the PC reach out to seniors to discuss their perspective and priorities on town planning.
 - Carol touched base with Doris Wheelock.
 - A PC member (Jim Bralich volunteered) will attend the January Bolton Up and Down Town Club Senior Dinner and invite them to a Seniors' Forum.
 - The PC should contact local residents who work with seniors for their input.
- Carol reminded the PC that they want to reach out to local businesses.
 - The PC needs to find a way of identifying businesses in town.
 - Help the businesses by developing connections between those who need goods/services and those who can provide them on the website (Deb Shelby volunteered to work on this).
 - One of the questions for businesses would be: what does Bolton need to attract business (e.g., broadband and cell).
 - At some point the PC would like to meet with the businesses up at Bolton Valley to discuss the Plan. Concerns were raised about trying to schedule a meeting this close to the ski season. The PC decided to send out feelers and possibly wait until April for the meeting.

Agenda Item #5 ~ Meeting Schedule and Topics for the Remainder of 2015

- The PC will tour Bolton Valley and the Rt. 2 Corridor on Saturday, November 21, 2015.
- November Meeting – Monday, November 9, 2015
 - Report on the Community Engagement Meetings & Survey
 - Begin discussion of vision statement and goals
 - What next with engagement
- December Meeting – Monday, December 14, 2015
 - Continue discussion of vision statement
 - Refine goals for each section
- January Meeting
 - Scorecard
 - Continue work on the vision statement and list of goals

The vision statement and goals have to be ready to present on Monday, February 29 at Town Meeting.

Agenda Item #6 ~ All Hazards Mitigation Plan

Emily Nosse-Leirer explained the timing for the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and Bolton to update the Bolton All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

- A draft of the text will be complete in December.
- The CCRPC will be soliciting comments in January and February.
- The All Hazards Mitigation Plan is important for FEMA applications, State of Vermont funds in the event of an emergency, and as part of the Town Plan.
- Members of the PC should read the draft of the tables and contact Emily with their comments.

Agenda Item #7 ~ Municipal Planning Grant & VLCT Fall Planning and Zoning Forum

Carol Devlin and Sharon Murray submitted the application for a Municipal Planning Grant. They made it clear that Bolton was extremely interested in becoming a pilot town for the Planning Manual and that the PC needs the expert help that would provide. However, they also emphasized that the PC wants an MPG to assist with writing the plan even if Bolton is not selected for the pilot. We will hear about both the grant and the pilot program in December.

Carol announced that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns is holding its Fall Planning and Zoning Forum on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. John Adams is doing a session on State Planning and Land Use Manual. Carol will attend and make contact with John to discuss the PC's interest in the pilot program. Sharon will also attend.

Agenda Item #8 ~ Select Board Updates

Sharon Murray updated the PC on several items that the Select Board has addressed:

- Representatives from the State of Vermont attended a SB meeting to explain a new proposal regarding PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments.

- Recent statutes have changed the PILOT program with the intent of standardizing how state land is assessed.
- Under the revised program, Bolton's PILOT payments are scheduled to decrease by approximately \$20,000 over three years.
- Rebecca Ellis, working with other representatives, wrote a bill that will reconsider the impact on towns like Bolton.
- Under the current proposal, Bolton's decrease in PILOT payments will be approximately \$4,250 over a four year period.
- The bill bases the PILOT on a set base price plus the consumer index.
- Sharon is concerned about the low increase in PILOT payments not taking into account the long-term changes in fair market value of state properties.
- The SB is considering whether it will endorse the bill.
- Wheeler Field
 - There are discussions of a proposal to develop Wheeler Field as a Planned Residential Development with the field left as open space.
 - Nature of the field is as yet to be determined: open field; park; playground.
 - This led to a discussion of definitions, size, purpose and location of open space. Should each neighborhood have a small open space as a community gather center? Should Bolton have a centrally located open space?
- Linda Baker, representing the PC, will testify at a hearing on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 regarding the town taking over private roads.
- The Capital Improvement Plan Committee
 - Linda Baker has been appointed as the PC representative.
 - CIP has met twice.
 - CIP will focus on one year planning first and then move on to a 5-year plan.
 - Priorities are highway trucks and an equipment schedule

Agenda Item #9 ~ Green Mountain Clean Energy

Deferred.

Agenda Item #10 ~ Other communications/mail

There was none.

Agenda Item #11 ~ Any Other Business

There was none.

Agenda Item #12 ~ Adjournment

Deb Shelby moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jim Bralich seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 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:

___November 9, 2015 ___

Linda Baker

For the Planning Commission