



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

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2011
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bolton Town Office

Planning Commission members present: Linda Baker, Chair, Jen Andrews, Steve Barner, Jim Bralich, Rodney Pingree

Planning Commission members absent: None

Also present: Sharon Murray

Clerk: Amy Grover

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Review of Bolton Town Plan; community survey
3. Minutes ~ June 9, 2011, and July 25, 2011
4. Other communications/mail
5. Any other business
6. Adjournment

Call to Order

Linda Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Agenda Item #1 ~ Public Comment

Linda Baker opened the floor to general public comment. There was none.

Agenda Item #2 ~ Review of Bolton Town Plan

The group reviewed and discussed the draft community survey provided by Sharon Murray. Discussion included and/or it was noted that:

- References to “Burlington” should be changed to “Burlington area.”
- Greater possibility for returns by not incorporating a lot of narrative answers.
- Potential for online response and/or compilation.
- Question #5; separate the closing of Smilie School from the previous question regarding consolidation. Do not relate closing solely to consolidation.
- Suggested wording; “If the Smilie School student population were to drop below 40 students, would you support school closure?”

- Suggested wording; “If Smilie School were to be closed, should the town plan for its use as a community facility?”
- Question #10; formatting.

Agenda Item #3 ~ Minutes June 9, 2011, and July 25, 2011 Meetings

Jen Andrews made a motion to accept the minutes of June 9, 2011 and July 25, 2011. Steve Barner seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 ~ Other communications/mail

- Notification from VLCT of upcoming training opportunities:
 1. The 2011-2012 Calendar of Training and Events (available at www.vlct.org) through June 2012.
 2. “Weathering the Storm(s): Land, Water and the Local Role” October 19, 2011 (a newly scheduled post Irene workshop).
 3. “Planning and Zoning Forum I” November 2, 2011.
- Notification from Leslie Pelch of funding available through the Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP) for forest and water climate adaptation plans.
- Notification from Leslie Pelch of the ECOS (environment, community, opportunity, sustainability, and recipient of a one million dollar federal grant from HUD) project’s ongoing and upcoming opportunities to join the broad community conversation around planning documents and implementation of local projects. It was noted that RJ Vallie had been participating for the town of Bolton, and is no longer a Select Board member or Bolton resident. Rodney Pingree will contact Leslie for further information.

Agenda Item #5 ~ Any other business

- The group discussed the aftermath and impact of hurricane Irene on Bolton; damage, interim zoning options, impact on the DRB, FEMA and Health department visits and requirements, permitting requirements under the FHA regulations, impact of structures being “substantially damaged,” evacuations, and follow up outreach by the town.
- The Green Mountain Club held an informational meeting regarding the planned relocation of the Long Trail in Bolton on September 19th. The plan calls for a bridge across the Winooski River, and access across I89 through the Notch Road tunnel. GMC noted that easements with private landowners were in place or in process, and that they had secured a pedestrian access easement across the railroad right of way on the Sara Holbrook property. GMC also noted that they hoped to keep the old portion of Long trail and Duck Brook Shelter open in the Jonesville area, but that would be dependent upon landowners’ agreement. Board members expressed concern about hiker safety while crossing through the tunnel and will be contacting GMC directly.
- The group reviewed the information and map from the State of VT regarding the desired subdivision and sale by the state of the Preston-Lafreniere farm on Duxbury Road. It was noted that there were concerns around the possibility of re-zoning in the area. The state will be meeting with the Select Board on Monday, October 3, 2011 to further discuss the process.

- Linda Baker noted that she had discussed the current FY MPG application with Joss Besse and that the focus was “Smart Growth Procedures;” not applicable to the town’s needs at this time. It was noted that the September 30th deadline had been extended by one month, and that several members would rather see the \$400K in grant funds put toward hurricane Irene relief and recovery.
- The next meeting of the PC will be held on Monday, October 24, 2011, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Agenda Item #6 ~ Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Amy Grover
Clerk, Planning Commission

These minutes are unofficial until accepted.

These minutes were read and accepted by the Planning Commission on:
November 28, 2011



Linda Baker, Chair