



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

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bolton Town Office

Planning Commission members present: Jim Bralich, Steve Barner, Rodney Pingree

Planning Commission members absent: Jen Andrews, Linda Baker

Also present: Sharon Murray

Clerk: Amy Grover

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Review of potential amendments to the Bolton Town Plan
3. Minutes ~ November 8, 2012
4. Other communications/mail
5. Any other business
6. Adjournment

Call to Order

Rodney Pingree called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Agenda Item #1 ~ Public Comment

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

Agenda Item #2 ~ Review of potential amendments to the Bolton Town Plan

The group reviewed the Natural Resource element of the Town Plan; current conditions, goals & policies. It was noted and/or discussion included:

- ANR is taking a different approach to looking at natural resources, and is focusing on biodiversity and 21 components contributing to Vermont's biological diversity (terrestrial and aquatic biological, ecological, and natural heritage data) which may make for a different approach to the natural resource element in the town plan.
- Bolton contains 18 of the 21 components.
- ANR is developing two new resource websites;
 - biodiversity - <http://biofinder.vermont.gov/>
 - natural resource atlas - <http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/>

- Scheduling a joint presentation with the Conservation Commission, for both town boards and the community, as part of updating the natural resources section of the Town Plan and asking Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, to come speak about resource values in Bolton. Amy will contact the CC.
- Human impact vs. climate change creating the need to protect higher elevation areas.
- Issues include flood plains and mountain ridges.

Agenda Item #3 ~ Minutes November 8, 2012 Meeting

Steve Barner made a motion to accept the minutes of November 8, 2012. Rodney Pingree seconded the motion. All were in favor (3 – 0), motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 ~ Other communications/mail

- Notification from the town of Underhill of a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Underhill Unified Land Use and Development Regulations and Zoning Map.

Agenda Item #5 ~ Any Other Business

- Rodney Pingree will attend the April 23, 2013 DRB hearing on the 4 x 4 Center Master Plan and Bolton Valley subdivision applications on behalf of the Planning Commission.
- It was noted that an ACT 250 hearing on the 4 x 4 Center's Master Plan Application was scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2013, 10 a.m. at Timberline Lodge at Bolton Valley, and that it may be beneficial to have town representation at that hearing. Given the daytime timing, no PC members were available to attend. Amy will contact the town clerk regarding representation. The group reviewed the letter from CCRPC's Executive Committee to the Natural Resources Board (ACT 250) containing their official comments on the application.
- The group reviewed VTel Wireless' pre-filing notice concerning the installation of telecommunications equipment and antennas on an existing tower on Ricker Mountain at Bolton Valley. The PC did not waive the notice requirement, and recommended approval of the project by the VT Public Service board noting the following concerns:
 1. The project is consistent with any permits for the meteorological tower issued by the town of Bolton.
 2. There is no heightening of the tower that already exists.
 3. The project only uses existing roads.
 4. There is no additional adverse impact to Bicknell Thrush habitat.
- Sharon Murray provided a DRB update and noted that the hearings on applications for the Green Mountain Club's Winooski River bridge and trail relocation project and the state of VT's Preston Lafreniere subdivision were closed and under deliberation.
- The group discussed the ECOS project meeting scheduled for April 18, 2013 at the Richmond Town Center meeting room @ 6 p.m. Arrowwood Environmental is gathering input from towns and reviewing inventory maps and the field

inventory plan. The following were noted as areas the PC would like to see addressed/reviewed in Bolton:

1. Vernal pools.
 2. Deer Yards.
 3. Bear habitat and Mast Stands.
 4. Additional information on Bolton's Forest District; break out the forest types to better address habitat values and management plans.
 5. Riparian habitat of Joiner Brook.
- The group discussed changing the regularly scheduled meeting date to the second Monday of the month. Amy will check with Jen and Linda on their availability.
 - The next regularly scheduled meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2013, 6 p.m. at the Bolton Town Office.

Agenda Item #6 ~ Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Amy Grover
Clerk, Planning Commission

These minutes are unofficial until accepted.

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

June 10, 2013



Linda Baker, Chair