

Middletown Springs Planning Commission
Approved minutes of Public Hearing
March 2, 2017

Members present: Hilary Solomon and John Arsenault.

Public present: Herb Childress, Patty Kenyon, Chris Fenton, Terry Redfield, Elizabeth Cooper, Ellen Secord, Laura Castle, Linda Peavy, Ursula Smith.

The hearing was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman J. Arsenault.

- 1) Chairman Arsenault stated that the purpose of the hearing was to seek public comment on the contents of the Plan as prepared. He went on to present a review of the process that the Planning Commission has undergone over the past twenty-two months to revise the Town Plan for presentation to the voters, as follows: After an initial meeting with the Executive Director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (“RRPC”) the Commission included the renewal of the Town Plan as an agenda item at each of its subsequent meetings. The 2012 Plan was reviewed and sections needing revision were identified. Copies of the Plans of several area towns were obtained and reviewed in order to determine how those towns had approached similar issues. The Commission undertook the creation of a survey of Town residents to seek input as to the residents’ and taxpayers’ feelings about the current condition and direction of the Town. The survey was mailed out in October of 2016 and the results were received and tabulated in November. In November and December of 2016 drafting of the proposed Plan was completed and in January of 2017 it was presented to the Selectboard. After some changes to the draft, the Selectboard, at their meeting on January 26, accepted the Plan for presentation to the voters at Town Meeting. The Commission sent copies of the Plan to the Planning Commissions of surrounding towns and other parties as required by Vermont statute. A Warning of this public hearing was posted in the Town Clerk’s office and two other locations in Town as well as on the Town website.
- 2) Chairman Arsenault asked for comments and questions from the public:
 - a. Herb Childress asked if the pilot project that the town was participating in with the RRPC would include developing guidelines for renewable energy siting. Hilary Solomon replied that her understanding from the RRPC and from Tom Hurcomb was that it would.
 - b. Elizabeth Cooper gave some additional detail on what the RRPC pilot project was attempting to accomplish with respect to renewable energy siting issues. Further discussion followed.
 - c. Elizabeth Cooper asked about the lack of strategies presented in Chapter II. A. “Land Use Overview” to address the protection of areas of ecological significance, ridgelines and river corridors. It was determined that these strategies were included in the strategies presented in the “Working Landscapes” and “Natural Areas” sections of the Land Use chapter and that a reference to those sections in the “Overview” section would be an appropriate means to address this concern.

- d. Ellen Secord, Patty Kenyon, Chris Fenton and others thanked the Commission for our involvement in the pilot project and for the work done on the Plan by the Commission.
- 3) There being no other comments or questions from the public present, the hearing was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Arsenault, Secretary