

Middletown Springs Planning Commission

Unapproved Minutes

January 6, 2020

Members Present: Sara Young, Hilary Solomon, Tom Hurcomb, Maynard Yost, and Peter Blekis

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM

- 1) Agenda approval: Approval as presented.
- 2) Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 4, 2019
- 3) Correspondence:
 - A) A letter from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, dated October 9, 2019, approving the replacement of a wastewater system at 99 East Street, permit #WW-1-3233. No action required.
 - B) A letter from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, dated October 21, 2019, approving the construction of a wastewater and water supply system at 290 Dudley Road, permit #WW-1-3235. No action required.
 - C) A letter from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, dated September 26, 2019, approving the construction of a wastewater and water supply system at Donahue Road, permit #WW-1-3173. No action required.
 - D) A letter dated November 27, 2019 from Victoria M Westgate, Esq., notifying of the intent to commence construction on the Orchard Road Solar 1 project. No action required.
- 4) Old Business:
 - A) Regional Marketing Initiative (RMI): the commission discussed the cost/benefit of RMI and that a report will be provided to the public in the near future by Kathy Letendre. Creative Economy (Commission) and its history were discussed and tied in to RMI. Suggestions such as the possibility of a shipping cooperative and farmer involvement were brought up, and challenges such as the difficulties in convincing creative people to join in the effort were discussed. Tom will request town involvement at the regional meeting.
 - B) Energy Section of Town Plan: Sara had a conversation with Barbara Noyes-Pulling and found there was no funding left for her to consult with Middletown Springs, and that it may be more likely if we were updating the Town Plan at the same time. It was suggested that a conversation with Ed Bove would be helpful. Barbara sent maps and recommended that we review the Brandon Energy Plan which was just approved, and also recommended that we consider an Energy Committee to address the Energy Plan. Tom related that there was an energy plan in town years ago and that he approached those past members but no one was interested in participating again. Tom suggested that we try to get participants for an

Energy Committee. Annette Smith from Vermonters for Clean Energy is a potential resource. Hilary asked if there was a budget for this, to which Tom replied there was not.

- C) Succession planning: Discussed terms for each member, and how our priority is the Energy Plan. Maynard had concerns about his availability, which were addressed.
- D) RRPC report: Hilary's report – Steve Shields gave a presentation about maps, and spoke about transportation resilience and imperiled roads, how they do erosion studies, traffic studies (which are referred to as MIRE), and water quality issues. Maps should be available when the studies are completed, at an uncertain date in the future.
- E) Building Committee Report: no report due to no recent meeting. Patty Kenyon has stepped down as head of the committee. Select Board did complete their survey. The PC discussed the results of the survey but with no recommendations.

New Business:

- A) Tom will be unavailable in February due to travel.
- B) Because the March Meeting is scheduled to be the day before Town Meeting Day, it was agreed to reschedule the meeting to the second Monday in March (March 9, 2020) for the convenience of the Town Office and because it would be a day of the public information meeting. We agreed that Tom would contact us concerning the posting of the schedule.
- C) Discussion of moving Tom's responsibilities to other Commission members.
- D) Tom has started drafting the Planning Commission Annual Report, and will be sending it to all members for review.

Adjournment at 5:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter A. Blekis, Secretary