

Marshfield Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m. • Thursday, January 17, 2013 • Old School House Common

Members present: Jon Groveman, Rich Baker, Julie Medose, Michael Schumacher, Faeterri Silver, and Bob Light. Guest present: Jackie Cassino (a regional planner from the CVRPC). Also present: Barbara Burkhalter, recording secretary.

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The members reviewed and approved the minutes of meeting dated January 3, 2013.

1. Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Enhanced Consultation Review

“The Purpose of Enhanced Consultation: The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission’s contract with the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development (Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development), requires the Commission to carry out consultation meetings with all of the towns and villages in the region. A similar process will be conducted throughout the state in an effort to develop a more consistent and meaningful review process and to improve the effectiveness of municipal and regional plans, and planning programs, in achieving the goals of Title 24, Section 4302.

“The Purpose, Objective and Outcome of this Process: The consultation process involves a discussion of important local and regional issues, local planning and training needs, new statutory requirements, planning programs and opportunities available through the CVRPC, and importantly, consideration of how effectively the municipal plan addresses Vermont’s statutory planning goals. One important product of this process is a qualitative review of the municipal plan, including suggestions as to how the plan might be improved to more effectively satisfy the statutory goals referenced above. Specific findings are reported on each of the following questions: 1. Which parts of the plan are particularly effective in implementing the statewide goals? 2. In which areas does the plan fail to effectively advance those statewide goals? 3. What specific opportunities exist to improve the town plan so that it more effectively addresses the statewide goals?”

Jackie said that the Marshfield Town Plan (adopted September 18, 2012) is a good plan and it does a good job of implementing the statewide goals. She went over the strengths and weaknesses and suggested that the Planning Commission keep track of the things that are accomplished and reference these in the next Town Plan. Other things discussed were transportation, fair and equitable housing, and economic development, subcommittees (energy, conservation, Old Schoolhouse Common, Village, community gatherings, housing, emergency response) and how to get people interested in volunteering their time to these committees, and how to create a clear line of communication with the Selectboard. Jackie suggested the PC apply for a Municipal Planning Grant to fund assistance with regulatory updates in 2013/2014.

Rich went over the things the Planning Commission has been working on (major re-write of the subdivision regulations) and their plan for the coming year (holding public meetings/forums and looking at district boundaries). Subdivision regulations describe how the town will look like in 30-40 years. Jackie asked for a copy of the draft subdivision regulations and expressed an interest in helping with and attending the public meetings (the CVRPC sets aside 30 hours of assistance per town per year).

Jackie handed out a list of CVRPC Services, which include: Municipal Plan, Bylaw Updates and Related Technical Assistance, Transportation Planning, GIS/Mapping, and Special Projects (Brownfields Assessments [Brownfields sites are former industrial sites], Regional Broadband Planning, Hazard Mitigation Planning, Food Systems Planning, and Grant Development Assistance and Administration).

2. Regional Planning Commission Report

None.

3. Zoning Administrator’s Report

None.

The next meeting is February 7, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara S. Burkhalter

Final approved February 21, 2013