

Marshfield Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m. • Thursday, March 17, 2016 • Old School House Common

Members present: Jon Groveman, Faeterri Silver, Bob Light, Michael Schumacher, and Melissa Seifert. Also present: Eric from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) and Barbara Burkhalter. The meeting was opened at 7:02 pm.

1. **Changes to Agenda** – Added “Planning Commission Vacancies” after “approve minutes”
2. **Approve Minutes** - The members reviewed and approved with changes the minutes from the March 3rd meeting.
3. **PC Vacancies** – Faeterri wants to be on the commission for another year, so the Selectboard needs to be asked to approve that.
4. **Eric from CVRPC will discuss Town Plan Update requirements**

The Town Plan is due to be updated by September 2017. Eric from the CVRPC spoke about the requirements for this update, namely the issues with the existing plan and where it’s out of conformance with any new statutes that have come into place since the Town Plan was updated in 2012. There has to be some reference to a Village Center, but the members are not sure if this can be achieved because of the wetlands and lack of buildings and parking, but will get the Village Trustees and Selectboard members involved to continue the discussion.

Eric presented a list of strengths and weaknesses based on his review of the existing Town Plan using a checklist from the State. Strengths: emphasis on protecting the environment, public lands and activities, agricultural and forestry, costs of energy consumption information and areas where savings could occur and steps made to achieve, developing the existing Village, and the effort to get the commuter bus transit up and running. Weaknesses (areas of the Town Plan that need improvement, or at least addressing these issues by stating that it isn’t a problem for the town): having a future land use map, making information for adult education classes available, making note of historic buildings (1800-1900) and natural and environmental resources and how they are being defined and come up with a list of why they are important to the community, housing (senior, affordable and low-income) and how accessory dwelling units are more of an option for affordable housing, the specific impact of agricultural (farming practices) and forestry on the environment, and a discussion of local foods and products.

Eric also asked members to consider a capitol improvements plan (or to at least discuss) and suggested that the mapping be upgraded to show future land use, historic resources, conservation, and habitat areas. They discussed identifying view sheds and opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. He spoke about details in the energy section, focusing on renewable energy and adding info about and identifying the issues. They discussed the flood resiliency element that’s required and to make reference to the local hazard mitigation plan, which was approved by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). He told the members that there is a new municipal planning manual available from the State, as well as training for the clean water act.

The members will be focusing on zoning for the next six months and then shifting to discuss these items regarding the Town Plan in January 2017.

5. **Discuss our plan for mapping and a build-out analysis in advance of our public forum**

Jon reviewed with Bob and Michael what was discussed at the last meeting. They received an estimate for the mapping, including a build out analysis, but the members decided to go with just the mapping for now.

6. Discuss Public Forums

The members also discussed possibly having a power point presentation drawn up for the public forums, agreed that they need to draft an agenda and to ask the RPC to send someone to facilitate the meetings. They would like to start the forum by summarizing the survey results. The members will discuss these items and more at the next meeting on April 7th.

7. Other

- Eric will send the list he presented to Jon, who will forward it to the members
- Faeterri will clean up the draft notice for the public forums
- Jon will attend the next Conservation Commission meeting to tell them about the public forums
- The members need to get on the agenda for a Selectboard meeting before May 19th in order to get the members involved
- Eric suggested prioritizing the list of maps for Dan, so that he can fit it into his schedule

The next meeting will be April 7, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Burkhalter

Final
Approved April 7, 2016