

WATERBURY PLANNING COMMISSION
Approved Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 25, 2016

Planning Commission: Chair: Ken Belliveau, Sarah McShane

Staff: Steve Lotspeich, Community Planner; Judith Byron, Secretary

Public: Don Schneider, Chair Select Board, Doriene Cedeno, Anne Imhoff

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:09 p.m. at the Municipal Center at 28 N. Main St.

AGENDA REVIEW AND MODIFICATIONS

There were no changes made to the agenda.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no comments from the general public.

DISCUSS VEHICLE SPEED AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ISSUES ON STOWE STREET

Steve L. gave an overview. The town is working with the neighbors on Stowe Street to look at ways to slow the traffic down. The Regional Planning Commission provided a tube counter to count the traffic and record the speed.

Doriene Cedeno explained that she was advised to come to the Planning Commission meeting to present her views on safety issues on Stowe Street. Her daughter Sophia began the discussion explaining the two signs they had raised money for "Drive Like your Kids lived here" were taken. Dori spoke of the seriousness of safety, with 26 children living between East and Lincoln Street, and tourists and bicyclists trying to get into the Village. She asked about speed tables, rumble strips and bike lanes to make the walking and cycling safer, and to deter vehicle speed.

Steve said there are plans to put in a permanent speed sign both north and southbound with a digital readout of the current speed of the vehicle and an accompanying speed limit sign. This is more effective in reducing speed than is a static sign.

Don Schneider questioned how to repurpose the street. He acknowledged the decreasing amount of police presence and referred to the time when it was known as speed trap. He queried, "If there was more money for police presence, would it make a difference?"

There was discussion of increased traffic down Stowe Street due to the two stop lights on Route 100 in the vicinity of the I-89 interchange. Ken praised the roundabout for its efficiency of traffic flow.

Steve talked of the repaving of Stowe Street that will be done after the construction of the interstate bridges is done. This will be a natural opportunity for change. He pointed out that rumble strips are used for various reasons, i.e. for the construction on Interstate 89 with its tight

off ramp, or typically for slowing down for a toll booth, but not for through traffic. Similarly, speed tables are used on slow speed streets in neighborhoods, but again not for through traffic. There is too much of a count (2,500-3,000 trips per day) for speed tables or rumble strips. Stowe Street is considered a Class 1 Town Highway because it was originally Route 100 before the interstate was built.

The tubes will be up for another week with a report generated for each day. Steve will look at the data and at what the numbers have been historically and bring the info back to the Planning Commission. VTrans will look at the corridor in August discuss options for calming the traffic.

Steve pointed out that parking, police and signage is the Trustees purview, road construction is the Select Board's purview, and the highway goes to both the Trustees and Select Board. The PC can operate in an advisory role, but any changes are in the hands of the Trustees and the SB. Steve mentioned that the PC is looking at what is feasible to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists and increasing safety for the street.

DISCUSS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT STUDY FOR VILLAGE OF WATERBURY

Steve presented the zoning map combining village and town zoning to give the whole picture. He explained that the keys were from the town and village zoning maps.

The Historic District map shows the Village of Waterbury Historic District but the Mill Village and Colbyville Historic Districts need to be added.

For the Public Utilities and Facilities map, Steve pointed out the waste water district, but that there need to be some corrections/additions made to the Village water system service area including adding the Ben & Jerry's parcel.

Steve invited the PC to let him know of any other mistakes regarding waste versus water system.

Ken pointed out the difficulty in reading the map, which needs to be easy to understand. He also advised the importance of considering where we might want to grow in the future and show future wastewater and water service areas.

Steve was reluctant to come up with future wastewater and water supply districts that don't currently exist. He mentioned having a conversation with Bill Shepeluk who knows more about the systems and their overall capacity.

The Steep Slopes map was presented. Steve pointed out that the polygons of measurement were quite large so the data is generalized, but at least the map gives a sense of the lay of the land. Ken pointed out that the map creates the illusion that the land is flatter than it is in reality. 10-15% slopes will be added to give a more realistic and useful map.

There was discussion of development constraints, i.e. no septic systems can be constructed on slopes greater than 25%, and it is advisable to avoid higher density development on slopes that are over 15%.

Ken asked Steve to create a placeholder on the website so people could have access to these maps. Steve agreed, but not before addressing the Planning Commission's comments and making corrections.

Eventually we will have more accurate topography generated from the new LiDar data for Waterbury. It will be six months to a year before the topography can be generated.

OTHER PLANNING COMMISSION BUSINESS

Steve presented the Zoning Administrator's Report from June 28th to July 25th. The key on bottom was added at Ken's request.

Ken asked if there was something in the bylaws that prevented "bootstrapping" i.e. adding on another lot to a subdivision without further Development Review Board (DRB) review and approval. Steve answered that the lot count is cumulative for a given five year period with any more than a total of three lots requiring DRB review.

Steve mentioned the Grange Hall as undergoing a review with the DRB. A large portion of the grass lawn and existing parking area was dug up and replaced with gravel. There are drainage issues and high ground water in the vicinity of the Grange Hall. Ken added that the water table is seasonal and drainage issues vary.

Steve referred to the Act 250 permit for a mixed use project on the lot that is in the northeast corner of Guptil Road and Route 100. There may be a technical hearing for the proposed Verizon Tower review by the state Public Service Board. The appeals of Todd Curtis' local zoning, and state wastewater and water supply permits on Henry Hough Road were discussed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were only two members of the Planning Commission present, so the review of the draft minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Byron, Secretary

