

WATERBURY PLANNING COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

Monday, June 11, 2018

Planning Commission: Ken Belliveau, Chair; Mark Ray, Eric Gross, Mary Koen

Staff: Steve Lotspeich, Community Planner; Patti Spence, Secretary

Guests:

Eric Vorwald , Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Duncan McDougall, Waterbury LEAP

Brian Woods, Waterbury LEAP

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. at the Municipal Center at 28 N. Main Street

AGENDA REVIEW AND MODIFICATIONS

No changes were requested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were none.

ENERGY PLAN - Draft

The Planning Commission's draft of the Energy Plan needs to be approved by July 9th to be incorporated into the draft Municipal Plan, also to be approved by the Commission at that meeting. That will allow for the warning of the Commission's public hearing that is currently scheduled for August 13th.

The stand-alone Energy Plan that has been drafted can be referenced in the Municipal Plan rather than having the individual chapters, especially the Energy Chapter, address the standards in the state Act 174. Act 174 requires either a stand-alone Energy Plan or an energy chapter and appropriate references in the Municipal plan.

Eric Vorwald summarized the changes made to the draft Energy Plan since the July, 2017 draft and the associated meetings:

1. There is now an introduction and executive summary.
2. There is a statement on new technologies since the last plan and acknowledgement there will continue to be new technologies.
3. Analysis/Target section now includes the Table on pg.16 listing of all current renewable energy generators for Waterbury. Waterbury Center may not have been included and Eric will follow up as needed.
4. NOTE: Label the tables with the number vs. the alpha reference. Eric will follow up as needed.
5. Table 1 (page 9) – the reference to average miles traveled is 12,500. This VTrans state average number seems low for our region.
6. Pathways & Implementation section has been reformatted for consistency.
7. Mapping policies were incorporated into this section on page 28.

8. Two maps were added on pages 53 & 54. They show areas with known constraints (such as the significant natural resources in State forest and the shoreline protection area around the Waterbury Reservoir) and areas with possible constraints (needs more site specific analysis). Additional criteria and the associated areas can be identified and added to the known constraints map by the town. Other sites, perhaps identified as “inappropriate areas” could be added to other maps – for instance the forest fragmentation map. For example, the Shutesville Hill wildlife corridor.
9. Preferred sites can be identified by municipalities with the associated criteria. If a preferred site is not on the plan but in the municipality a site owner can request that it be added to the plan or approved under the criteria in the Energy Plan. A preferred site approval by the municipality is needed for projects above a certain threshold/capacity for electrical generation. There are currently additional financial incentives available for projects located on these preferred sites if a municipality and the Regional Planning Commission approves the preferred site designation.
10. Mary asked about references to electrical vehicle charging stations or language identifying needs and encouraging more charging stations to be constructed on both public and private sites.
11. Park & Ride sites – should we be identifying potential new location/s – or is this a State function for VTrans? Steve Lotspeich said that the town has tried to find an additional Park & Ride site in the past and it has been difficult to find another feasible site that is nearby the I-89 Exit 10 interchange where it would be utilized.
12. Wind Resources Map – one area marked as a potential site is on Shutesville Hill. It was agreed that this area should be taken off the map as there is a known constraint of the wildlife corridor.
13. Preferred sites - Steve to send information to Eric (CVRPC) on the existing Callan gravel pit site off Sweet Rd. Other sites that meet the state preferred site criteria may need to be added as well.
14. Energy chapter from current Municipal plan – Steve offered to email Eric the Word file for the chapter so Eric can propose edits and cross references to the Energy Plan.

Comments from the Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) members present:

1. Policy items that have not yet been included in the draft Energy Plan that were in the LEAP comments from last year were brought up. These items are part of the proposal that LEAP made for this Energy Plan.
2. It was requested that the LEAP members identify the priority additional policy areas not currently included in the draft and put them in the format used for policies in the current draft of the Energy Plan. If these can be submitted in advance of the June 25th meeting then the Planning Commission can consider including some or all of them.
3. What will be the make-up of a task force charged with implementing this Plan? This topic will require additional discussion.

FOREST FRAGMENTATION

The Commission discussed addressing forest fragmentation in the upcoming re-write of the Municipal Plan including both text and mapping. It was decided to reviewed examples of how other Central Vermont towns are addressing forest fragmentation in their Municipal Plans. Waitsfield is a good example of a town that has already developed mapping and language.

The Commission discussed the recommendations relating to forest fragmentation made by Clare Rock from CVRPC, including a map entitled "Ideas for meeting Act 171 requirements, Waterbury Future Land Use". The next steps in developing draft language and maps to address this issue were also discussed. The concept being proposed by Steve and Clare is to focus on two general areas – the Shutesville Hill wildlife corridor and the forested portion of our high elevation areas above 1,200'. Other areas are covered in other parts of the Municipal Plan or may be a lower priority for addressing forest fragmentation. The Commission agreed to this approach in concept and asked that more detailed mapping and text be developed.

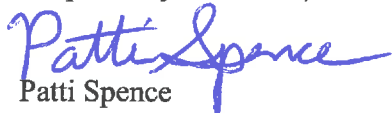
Clare Rock prepared tracked changes versions of the Land Use and Natural Resources chapters in the current Municipal Plan with comments on language that already addresses or relates to forest fragmentation. Steve handed out these documents for review. Steve will be drafting language for these chapters that addresses Clare's comments and will incorporate the criteria relating to forest fragmentation in the state Act 171. This new draft language will be sent to the Planning Commission in advance of the next meeting on June 25th so it can be reviewed in conjunction with the discussion with Clare Rock at that meeting. Mary expressed concern regarding the inconsistency in the terms used for the districts in the zoning maps and the areas referenced in the land use maps. Steve was asked to think in terms of refining the terminology to be more consistent.

Next meeting, June 25, 2018: Meet with Clare Rock from CVRPC to discuss draft text and maps to address forest fragmentation in the Municipal Plan. Discuss the draft Energy Plan and the associated maps. Review updated language to be submitted by LEAP. **Note:** This meeting will be held in Steele Community Room at the Municipal Center located at 28 N. Main St.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 09:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Patti Spence
Secretary