



RUTLAND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

City Hall – 52 Washington St. – Rutland, VT 05701
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 969 – Rutland, VT 05702
Phone: 802-773-1800

5/20/2015

Minutes May 20, 2015

Present: Dave Coppock (DC), Susan Schreibman (SS), Larry Walter (LW) and Alvin Figiel (AF).

Also attending: Alderman Chris Siliski.

DC, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – DC asked to re-prioritize the discussions under Old Business by moving the Dorr Drive follow-up discussion under the Downtown Gateway Study grant.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 15, 2015 and April 29, 2015.

SS moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015. LW seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SS moved to approve the minutes of April 29, 2015. AF seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

Downtown Gateway Study Grant – Final Requisition – Barbara requested the Commission approve the final requisition for the Downtown Gateway Study Municipal Planning Grant and submitted a copy of the grant closeout report for the record.

AF moved to approve the final requisition. SS seconded. Motion carried unanimously. SS suggested that the Commission be more involved in future Municipal Planning Grants and at a minimum be provided with hard copy of the work product.

Dorr Drive Repaving Project – DC said the City's FY 16 Municipal Highway Grant application to repave Dorr Drive within its current footprint will most likely be approved. He would like the Commission to come to a consensus as to how to proceed with the letter to the Board of Highway Commissioners explaining the

need for bike/ped accommodations on Dorr Drive. Dorr Drive is currently a bike route and connects to the Rutland Creek Path.

SS said that Jim Rotundo, City Engineer, provided three scenarios for adding bike lanes beginning with a 3 ft. shoulder that added \$153,000 to the project and the costs only increased from there. AF said the City needs to understand that there will be increased costs to projects to comply with the Complete Streets Law.

DC said a Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, at 5 pm to discuss Complete Streets Law and Dorr Drive. Alderman Siliski suggested separating the two discussions and use the Wednesday meeting to educate the Committee on Complete Streets with a follow-up meeting regarding Dorr Drive.

SS distributed copies of Burlington's Complete Streets Guidance that was developed by Burlington's DPW. She said the Mayor asked what the Planning Commission wanted for each road. AF said the City Engineer should be doing the fieldwork. Alderman Siliski agreed that the plan needed to come from the Executive Office. SS said the Commission could create a plan for inclusion in the City's Master Plan but would need to know what roads DPW would be working on in the coming years.

AF said his recommendation for the letter to the Board of Highway Commissioners would be to create a 3 ft. bike lane on either side of Dorr Drive and narrow the road to 10 ft. lanes.

Alderman Siliski discussed the psychology of adding curbs and greenspace to roadways and how it creates the illusion that the road has been narrowed. He also discussed the investment the College is making to add students and the importance of that connection to downtown.

LW said the City needs to see the economic prosperity and benefit to Rutland through the impact of Complete Streets. There was discussion about comparable towns who have evidence of this benefit.

Discussion continued with regard to the need for a center line and fog lines on Dorr Drive. SS was able to determine that Class 1 & 2 roads require center lines.

AF said pressure needed to be put on DPW to create a document like Burlington using Burlington's Complete Streets Guidance as a model. SS suggested working with Jeff to create the plan. LW suggested hiring a firm with expertise to work on the plan. DC said the Commission could suggest to the DPW Committee that they adopt a plan like Burlington's that would have an annual review with assistance from the Commission.

LW volunteered to draft the letter to the Board of Highway Commissioners regarding Dorr Drive with the request to increase the width of the road to 27 total feet. The width includes 10 ft. lanes, 1 ft. for the center lines and 3 ft. shoulders.

LW moved that DC draft two letters, the first endorsing the creation of Complete Streets plan for the May 27th meeting, and the second letter specific to Dorr Drive for the June 1 Board of Alderman's meeting. SS seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Design Control District design criteria – Tabled until next meeting.

Article II of the Zoning Bylaws – Tabled until next meeting.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE.

VIII. ADJOURN.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:48 pm.

For the Commission
Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary