



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

3/25/15

Minutes March 25, 2015

Present: Dave Coppock (DC), Alvin Figiel (AF), Susan Schreibman (SS) and Patrick Griffin (PG).

DC, Acting Chair, called the Public Hearing to order at 6 pm.

I. PUBLIC HEARING – MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT.

The public hearing was warned to amend the City's Master Plan to include language explaining how the downtown designation has furthered the goals of the plan and include a map that depicts the boundary of the designated district for compliance with Act 59 24 VSA §2793(c) and §2793a(d) which was adopted July 1, 2014.

There was no one present from the public.

AF moved to close the public hearing. SS second. Motion carried unanimously.

II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – None.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2015.

SS asked to change the chapter number in paragraph one under Rutland Zoning Bylaws Presentation from 115 to 117.

DC felt the second paragraph on page 2 of the minutes did not accurately reflect the intentions of the Planning Commission with regard to revising the current zoning. PG suggested removing the word "change" and using "update."

AF moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2015 with the two amendments. PG seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Master Plan Amendment - SS suggested fixing a typo in the report from "missed" to "mixed."

PG moved to approve the report as amended and forward the amendments of the Master Plan to the Board of Aldermen. SS seconded. AF abstained from voting. The motion carried 3-0 with 1 abstention.

Initiation of work to revise zoning - DC discussed his meeting with the Mayor in regard to revising the zoning bylaws. He was told that it was important that the person hired to be the City's Zoning Administrator/Planner have ownership in the revised zoning and therefore he was not in favor of a grant to hire a consultant at this time.

DC said the Commission has new blood and new momentum and would like to continue working on tangible projects. Whether or not a City Planner is hired the Commission should move the process forward and have resources available to outsource help for particular aspects of revising the zoning bylaws.

SS said the VT League of Cities and Towns reviews ordinances, not for free, to check for consistency with Chapter 117.

AF discussed a need for someone to type the Gateway Design Guidelines he is working on in long hand. Barbara explained that as the recording secretary her duties are to prepare the minutes of the meetings; any other administration requests should go through the Building & Zoning department.

SS said help is needed to make the zoning consistent with the new Master Plan. The RRPC could write a grant application for the City.

DC said he would talk to the Mayor again.

PG asked whether the Aldermen were receptive to revising the zoning. DC discussed his conversation with the Board at their meeting.

SS asked if the gateway districts were distinct or could they be combined? AF said each Gateway was different and he discussed the differences and why they each needed specific design review; citing Lindholms rebuild after the fire as an example of good design. AF added that he did not want to create an "architectural straightjacket" but a reasonable balance in each of the narrow gateway districts.

SS suggested the Commission start with the Gateways language and not adopt the zoning piece meal. She also suggested as a first step the Commission review Article II. She asked that an electronic version of the zoning be sent to the Commission. AF thought Article II needs expertise but the Commission could offer common sense critique. He suggested having Ed Bove also look at the zoning section.

Bike Route Planning - DC said that last summer work began on revisiting the City bike route and putting a plan on paper for the DPW. SS discussed the existing bike route and distributed a map. She said that destination arrows needed to be added to the existing signs and more signs need to be ordered. The map and accompanying spreadsheet could be used by DPW for the installation of the signs.

DC added that signs and stripping are needed. Susan said she would like to see Crescent Street have a bike lane as it connects to Pine Hill Park and the Rutland Creek Path.

PG suggested a priority list for the DPW. Susan said new road improvements would dictate the priority and address the Complete Streets initiative.

PG asked how to formalize the bike route planning. SS said it needs to be incorporated into the Master Plan.

SS asked for a copy of the DPW's street paving plan. She said she would have a better map and spreadsheet for the next meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

April 6 Pedestrian Assessment - Rutland City was selected for a Pedestrian Assessment on April 6. Anyone interested should meet at the Transit Center at 7:30 am, 12 pm or 4 pm. Participants will receive a clip board and survey to assess downtown streets including West, Wales, Cottage, Merchants Row, Evelyn and Pine. The April 6 assessment is in conjunction with an on-line survey.

Downtown Gateway Study -The City was awarded a \$20,000 Municipal Planning Grant in 2014 to hire a consultant to conduct an analysis of infrastructure capacity regarding transportation and utilities of the City's gateways. LandWorks was hired through a competitive bid process to work with the RRA, DRP and Regional Planning Commission to inventory, photograph and map specific sites and infrastructure in the target areas and create graphic renderings and representations of redevelopment in identified sites. The results of the effort will be presented in a final planning document. The Commission set a public meeting to discuss the plan for Wednesday, April 29, at 6 pm in the RRPC conference room.

The next meeting will be held April 15.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE.

VIII. ADJOURN.

AF moved to adjourn. PG seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:35 pm.

For the Commission
Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary