

**Rutland City Planning Commission  
Minutes  
April 22, 2020**

**Chair Schreibman noted that the meeting was being held by teleconference because of the new COVID-19 criteria.**

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

**Also Present:** Alderman Michael Talbott, Tara Kelly, Planning Director and Zoning Administrator and Barbara Spaulding, recording secretary.

SS, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

- I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – None.**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 11, 2020.**

DC moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2020. PG seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. NEW BUSINESS – Alderman Talbott was introduced as the new Aldermen liaison.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS – Draft Zoning Bylaws.**

The last meeting to discuss the zoning bylaws was Oct. 23, 2019 and the Commission left off on Section 4 – Development Review. SS will send copies of the 11/28/19 version of the draft zoning to the Commissioners and resume review in May.

**City Master Plan – Public Hearing and General Committee Meeting.**

DC discussed what occurred during the public hearing on Monday including comments from Rep. William Notte in favor of the gas pipeline and several members of the public who spoke in opposition of the gas pipeline. All written comments were directed to Melinda Humphrey for the General Committee meeting on April 21.

Alderman Talbott discussed his concerns with regard to the General Committee Meeting with some of the Aldermen favoring economics over safety. He added that there are other renewable energy options available that will need to have economic benefits pointed out.

SS discussed the RRA's concern with the bypass language in 5.8(h) which was removed. She added that Melinda Humphrey's edits to the gas pipeline language were accepted and that Strategy #6 was removed from Section 9 – Energy Plan. In the same section,

Strategy #5.6 was changed to “encourage addition of new and enhancement of existing pedestrian facilities as a condition of approval for new development” instead of “require.” SS has concerns that the public input received during the public hearing was not properly considered.

DC discussed the RRA’s request to restore the language in Section 11: Implementation Plan 11.5 Historic/Districts/Design Review to the 2015 Master Plan. This would remove any Architectural Committee (ARC) review of the gateways. AF discussed the relevance of review in these areas adding that the ARC is an advisory board to the Development Review Board. SS said the zoning ordinance has the teeth to enforce design review and therefore the focus of the Commission should be in making sure the gateway criteria is in the new zoning.

Tara Kelly reminded the Commission that the Municipal Planning Grant funding in part will produce clear, agreed upon development standards and processes. Tara said she will follow up with Brandy regarding the revised scope of work that was requested following her interview but that the COVID-19 outbreak had caused some timing issues for Brandy.

Barbara was asked about next steps for the Master Plan adoption. The final public hearing is scheduled for May 18 however; per 24 VSA no changes to the plan may be made by the legislative body 15 days prior to the final public hearing. The master plan as edited following the April 21 General Committee will be submitted to the Regional Planning Commission by May 3 for its meeting on May 19. If there are any delays in the timeline, dictated by 24 VSA, and the Master Plan is not approved by June 1, it will expire.

**Sign Ordinance Update** - SS asked Alderman Talbott if he could provide the Commission with a status update at the next meeting on the Proposed Sign Ordinance currently in discussion with Charter & Ordinance Committee.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE.**

3/11/2020, DRM PLLC, 171 River Street Rutland 200 kW net-metering solar project certificate of public good petition.

PG suggested responding with a letter requesting landscaping for the proposed project to screen the Rutland Creek Path. SS volunteered to draft a letter to the utility commission and send it out to the Commission for review before mailing.

#### **V. ADJOURN.**

DC moved to adjourn. PG seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:36 pm. The next meeting will be held May 13, 2020.

For the Commission:

Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary