



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

Minutes June 27, 2018

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

Also Present: Jim Rotondo, City Engineer; Ted Gillen, Associate Engineer; and Barbara Spaulding, recording secretary.

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

- I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS** – Susan asked to add a discussion of the Sign Ordinance draft under Old Business.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 13, 2018.**

LW moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2018. DC seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS** – None.
- V. OLD BUSINESS – Complete Streets Draft.**

Jim Rotondo distributed copies of the revised Complete Streets draft saying that the proposed changes advocated by the Planning Commission, as well as, the comments received from the public hearing held June 13, 2017 were listed in red. The draft is also available on the City's website and includes background information.

Jim said the 33 comments that were received were analyzed and for the most part, the DPW agreed with a majority of the comments.

Jim stressed that although the Complete Streets document is a guide, the addition of pedestrian, bicycle and multi-transit projects would be considered during road construction.

AF asked about a list of priorities. Jim said that maps were developed for priorities.

SS asked who decides which projects will adhere to the guidance document. Jim said the DPW Commissioner. He assured the Commission that the draft was not done just to satisfy the Aldermen but he is whole-heartedly behind the guide. It is necessary to do the right projects and every project can't be chosen. The budget needs to also dictate projects.

The philosophy is to spend most efficiently and address lower cost preservation techniques. He reassured the Commission that DPW is excited about the document as a tool to be used to make the City more bike and pedestrian friendly.

Jim discussed the addition of the Master Plan verbiage with regard to Bicycle and Pedestrian efforts so that both plans are consistent. He said this would be living document that should be reviewed every five years and updated with a public process. The bus routes were corrected and the pedestrian priority map cleaned up. He said the draft document sat for a while due to the loss of Nate, the construction season and infrastructure issues.

SS said with the rewrite of the zoning some new language may need to be incorporated into the guidance document.

Ted discussed the creation of an evaluation form that would be used in addition to the form required by VTrans.

During the map review the Commissioners had several questions regarding the road classifications and adding streets to the priority tiers. Jim asked the Commission, as a whole or individually, to submit their comments prior to the Board of Highway meeting scheduled for July 11.

LW discussed traffic calming horizontal alignment on residential collectors to slow traffic.

Alderman Mattis proposed a “wrong way” bike lane on Wales Street to avoid riding on Merchants Row.

The FY19 Paving Plan was discussed. SS asked whether mill and fill projects qualify for Complete Streets efforts. Jim said it would depend on the associated costs. She also asked why the road classifications did not correspond with VTrans terminology. Jim said the road classifications for the guidance document were created for the document.

Discussion continued with regard to the FY19 plan for sidewalks and curbing. SS asked if the River Street sidewalk, as part of the Multi-use Path, was included. Jim suggested a discussion with Jeff.

Jim discussed the \$500,000 paving budget and the \$70,000 concrete budget and how projects were chosen and where the money was being spent.

*SS took over the minute taking for the meeting at 6:50 pm.

SS suggested that the Commission provide their comments to her by July 6 and she will compile them and send to Jim. The Traffic Safety Committee meets at 9 am on the third Friday of the month.

Sign Ordinance.

The question of whether the proposed ordinance should be vetted thoroughly or partially by VLCT was discussed. DC moved to have VLCT perform a full legal review of the proposed ordinance prior to presenting it to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. AF seconded. Motion was approved. Alderman Mattis discussed timing.

AF said Zoning Administrators decisions are appealed by interested persons to the DRB and DRB decisions are appeal to the Environmental Court and then the Supreme Court.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was received and filed.

5/15/18 – Clean Energy Decision Group, J.A. Giancola 133.2 kW(AC) solar net metering project, 471 River Street, Rutland;

5/18/18 – VT Dept. Environmental Conservation, solar development in a floodplain;

5/22/18 – Town of Rutland, VT, public hearing notice for re-adoption of the municipal plan; and

5/25/18 – DPW, JA Giancola solar net metering project, permanent easements.

VII. ADJOURN.

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm. The next meeting will be held August 8, 2018.

For the Commission:

Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary