



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

November 13, 2019

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

Also Present: Brennan Duffy, Rutland Redevelopment Authority and Barbara Spaulding, recording secretary.

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

- I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS** – SS added an update to the proposed sign ordinance draft. AF added discussion of the pedestrian issue brought to the Aldermen on Monday.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 23, 2019.**

LW moved to approve the minutes of October 23, 2019. DC seconded. AF asked for a correction to the Master Plan section he was asked to review from [6] to 4 on page 1 paragraph 5. LW amended his motion to include the change. DC seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – Pedestrian Issue.

AF said that at Monday night's Aldermen's meeting a woman who had relocated to Rutland through the "Stay to Stay" program and asked that the Board of Aldermen do more about pedestrian safety in the city. A motion was made to send the issue to the Planning Commission. AF asked if anything had been received. Barbara reported that she had not received any communication from the Aldermen. Brennan said he was at the meeting and the issue was referred to the Community & Economic Development Committee as well as the Planning Commission and that when the C&ED committee meets to discuss the issue, they most likely would include the Planning Commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS – Sign Ordinance Update.

SS reported that Alderman Mattis was meeting individually with the Aldermen to get their opinion on the draft sign ordinance. She also said that Dave Cooper had reformatted the document into a more user-friendly version. Alderman Mattis was also meeting with sign makers to discuss how to regulate internally illuminated signs.

City Master Plan – Draft Update.

Brennan said he emailed the Commission a copy of the edits he made including those sections the Regional Planning Commission felt were lacking. Ed Bove confirmed that the edits meet all the statutory requirements. The draft submitted to the Commission includes updates by the Department Heads, CCV and CSC. Jeff Wennberg has not updated the DPW section. Tara Kelly submitted changes to the Zoning section but those were not incorporated into the 11/7/19 draft. Brennan suggested that the Commission accept the 11/7/19 draft tonight and he will combine the edits made by Tara; remove the track changes and email a clean copy to the Commission.

SS asked Brennan to go through the edits he made to the document. Brennan said the following edits were made:

- Fire Chief made substantial changes to Section 6 - Community Facilities Plan
- Changes made by the Department Heads included updates to the Executive Summary
- Stats were updated with 2017 data in Section 3 – Statistical Information
- Flood resiliency was added to Section 4 – Land Use Plan
- All required maps exist including the Designated Downtown and 100/500 floodplain
- The Police Chief made simple changes in Section 6
- Kim Peters made changes in Section 6 with regard to Recreation
- PG asked if the Child Care Element had been updated. Brennan volunteered to research online a Vermont database to update the information
- Section 7 – Education was updated by the Rutland City Public Schools, Castleton University, CCV and the CSJ information was edited to reflect the campus' current situation
- Section 8 – Housing was updated with 2017 census information as applicable
- Section 9 – Energy Plan no changes were made
- Section 10 - Economic Development was updated and Opportunity Zone information, not available in 2015, was added

Brennan invited the Commissioners to the Downtown Rutland Strategic Plan Open House on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 11:30 am to 6 pm at CCV.

PG moved to accept the 11/7/19 draft. It was seconded. Motion was approved.

SS suggested reviewing changes she made to Section 5 – Transportation Plan. The word “alternative” was changed to “active.” Where the word “pedestrian” was used, she included “bicycle.” The following transportation issues were discussed:

- Reducing the speed limit to reduce cut-through traffic
- Encouraging the Road Diet
- Encouraging collaboration with Rutland Town for a future bypass
- Improving the aesthetics along the railroad corridor

DC discussed his plans on incorporating language from the Windsor and Middlebury Master Plans for updating the Energy Section.

Barbara went over the public hearing schedule for adoption of the Master Plan by June 1, 2020. The Commissioners agreed to submit their respective section edits to PG by December 15. He will combine the edits with the draft provided by Brennan. The Commission will meet in January 15 to review their version of the draft update.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – None.

VII. ADJOURN.

AF moved to adjourn. DC seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:03 pm. The next meeting will be held January 15, 2020.

For the Commission:

Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary