



## 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

4/29/15

### **Minutes April 29, 2015**

**Present:** Dave Coppock (DC), Susan Schreiber (SS), Larry Walter (LW) and Patrick Griffin (PG).

**Also attending:** Brennan Duffy, Executive Director RRA and Alderman Chris Siliski.

DC, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

#### **I. PUBLIC MEETING – Downtown Gateway Plan**

DC introduced Patrick Olstad of LandWorks who presented the Downtown Gateway Plan findings. Brennan added that LandWorks had been hired a year ago and tonight's presentation was the culmination of a year's work. The final report will be available on the RRA website, as well as, a bound and unbound copy in the RRA office. The study was funded through a Municipal Planning Grant awarded by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Patrick discussed the following topics: Issues of the Gateway – not best first impression; Streetscape analysis conducted by RSG Inc.; Land Use Analysis, Public Process, and Recommendations to create a Sense of Place.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

LW inquired about tactics to get both public and private property owners to clean up. Patrick said investing in the Gateways would create a sense of pride that could encourage property owners to clean up.

There was discussion regarding speed limits and how narrow road design slows traffic.

DC asked about roundabouts. Patrick said roundabouts were not pursued in the study due to their high cost and right-of-way issues.

SS asked about the cost of the proposed Gateway amenities. Brennan said estimated costs were included in the recently awarded Downtown Transportation Grant for Gateway and Pedestrian Improvements on Strongs Avenue and Merchants Row.

Alderman Siliski asked about comparable projects that could provide actual data on the impact on economic development from implementation of streetscape

amenities. Patrick offered the Town of Jericho and the Winooksi Downtown Project. Ed Bove added that the RRPC has such data.

**II. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – None.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 15, 2015.**

Approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

**V. NEW BUSINESS – None.**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS.**

**Dorr Drive Repaving Project** – PG asked for an update on the Dorrr Drive Repaving Project as his requests for a copy of the VTrans Municipal Highway Grant Application went unanswered.

SS discussed her conversation with Jim Rotondo, City Engineer. She was told implementing Complete Streets Law on Dorrr Drive was cost prohibitive. Acting as a representative of the Regional Planning Commission, she made calls to Peg Flory and Dave Potter. She was told by Senator Flory that the City did not have the right-of-way on Dorrr Drive to implement Complete Streets.

Alderman Siliski said he believes the Aldermen are responsible for City Streets and will research the bylaws. He believes there is a disconnect between the Complete Streets Law and the DPW and suggested SS give the Complete Streets presentation to the Public Works Committee of the Aldermen. He believes the Aldermen need to be educated on how investment in communities increases property values.

SS said she has scheduled a meeting in her Regional Planning Commission capacity with the Mayor. She added that the Bike Map designates Dorrr Drive as a bike route and as such makes Dorrr Drive the logical location to incorporate Complete Street Law.

DC said the Commission will conduct the following with regard to Dorrr Drive:

- 1) Alderman Siliski will talk to the City Attorney regarding the Aldermen's role regarding City streets;
- 2) DC will talk to Tom Depoy regarding a meeting of the Public Works Committee to discuss Complete Streets Law and a possible presentation by SS.

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- 3) DC will draft a letter to the Highway Commission on behalf of the Planning Commission regarding compliance with Complete Streets Law. The draft letter will be emailed to the Commissioners for review.

**Article II of the Zoning Bylaws** – Discussion postponed until May 20.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE.**

**VIII. ADJOURN.**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:41 pm.

For the Commission  
Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary

SIGN IN APRIL 29 PUBLIC MEETING  
DOWNTOWN GATEWAY STUDY

Kathy Phillips

~~Ed Reno~~

William Notte

Ernie Smalley

Gordon Dritschilo

Gills

RRPC

Alderman

Property owner

Herald