



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

8/5/2015

Minutes August 5, 2015

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

DC, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

- I. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS** – None.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – July 15, 2015.

PG moved to approve the minutes of July 15, 2015. AV seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS.**

Municipal Planning Grant – Barbara distributed copies of the draft application and discussed the program's timeline, funding requirements, selection process, citizen participation and competitive criteria. She emphasized that the \$8,000 (non-match required) application would not be enough to see the Zoning Bylaws revision through to adoption and that an update did not necessarily constitute a competitive application.

SS said that Ed Bove provided a quote from the RRPC for the work at \$12,500.

AF said a specialist is necessary and the required public hearings would be sufficient for public input.

Alderman Siliski suggested meeting with the Mayor and requesting the required match of \$4,125 be included in the next budget.

AF moved to defer applying for a Municipal Planning Grant to amend the Zoning Bylaws until next year. SS seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission discussed the next steps to prepare for the postponed application:

- Meet with Mayor to discuss matching funds
- Work on broader vision for the Bylaws, let consultant do minutia and general issues
- Create 5-10 bullet points for each of the districts
- Educate the Alderman in committee
- Create a list of the need for the revision (to include list from draft application)
- Draft letter to the Mayor and Alderman asking for Zoning Bylaw discussion in committee.
- Alderman Siliski will report out at August 17 Aldermen's meeting.

Discussion of Gateway Business – North Main Street

SS provided a google map of the district and PG provided pictures of the surrounding buildings.

AF discussed the issues with signage and low vegetation where major improvements could be made that would make the buildings less visible.

There was discussion regarding the relationship between the DRB and the Architectural Review Committee. AF suggested revising the Architectural Review Guidelines.

There was consensus that the following list needs to be considered in the GB-NMS district:

- Preserve green strip on both sides of the road
- Signs need to conform to size with no internal lighting
- Buildings should be closer to the road with parking in the rear or side
- Good landscaping including a combination of trees and shrubs
- No metal vertical siding
- Narrow egress
- Maximum curb cut size

LW suggested inviting the City Forester to a future meeting for input. He also discussed a traffic light at Tenney Brook to slow traffic. SS explained that was controlled by VTrans.

SS said as traffic enters the City this Gateway's aesthetics should change and landscaping would help to slow speed.

AF added that the City Sign Ordinance needs revision. He also asked the Commissioners to "red mark" the draft he provided so he knows how to move forward.

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DC said for the next meeting on September 16, the Commission needs to review the City Sign Ordinance; make notes on Alvin's draft of the districts; and review the GB-SMS district.

Dorr Drive Update – SS gave an update on the Dorr Drive paving. She has not seen a supplemental bid for widening the road.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE.

VIII. ADJOURN.

PG moved to adjourn. AF seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:21 pm.

For the Commission
Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary