

West Windsor Planning Commission  
Minutes  
February 13, 2019

Present: Al Keiller, Laura Stillson, Ray Shannis, Brendan Harrington, Jason Rasmussen, Melanie Sheehan and Courtney Hillhouse.

- 1) Call to Order Chair Al Keiller called the meeting to order at 6:34PM
- 2) Changes or Additions- None
- 3) Public Comment-None
- 4) Mount Ascutney Prevention Partnership (MAPP) The Commission was considering adding a Chapter on community health and ageing in place and invited Melanie Sheehan of Mount Ascutney Prevention Partnership to present. MAPP is grant funded organization based out of Mount Ascutney Hospital that mainly focuses on substance abuse prevention and community health promotion. They have done a lot of work with other towns in putting health language in town plans based on identified need. MAPP does an assortment of things but, when you are thinking about keeping youth healthy, working at the policy level they can be the most effective. They have worked with the regional planning commissions to produce a policy guide to supporting a healthy community. Overall, she felt West Windsor is a 'healthy community' that with the mountain and the trail system it already has a niche as an active community. In 20 years, one doesn't know what form economic development will take, so in looking ahead—it is important to decide what kind of a community you would like which can help shape a vision for your town and identify needs. In thinking about the values, you have as a town can help shape the language in the town plan to reflect those values. One item at the moment that MAPP is following closely at the state level are Cannabis laws. One way or another it will change Vermont. If towns haven't had those conversations about this ahead if time they don't have language in their plans to address it. It is prudent for towns to think ahead instead of being reactionary. For example, when thinking about retail sale of marijuana there may be nothing on the books to keep retail marijuana establishment from setting up shop right next to an elementary school. Also, with potential commercial sale of marijuana there may be options to levy local taxes. These conversations are hard, as this is a new economic market opening up, so it is important to establish your towns values to aid in planning process. Melanie dropped off a folder of materials for the Planning Commission as examples of types of resources MAPP can provide during the town Plan update and beyond and is happy to share resources or assist us in any way she can.
- 5) Updates to Town Plan:
  - Review Chapter 1—The Commission looked over the small edits that Jason suggested and incorporated into the chapter.
  - Timeline-PC agreed on the updated timeline presented by SWRPC. Deb and Jason will work together to keep the chapter updates in order. Drafts will be ready for PC review one week before the meetings. The March Meeting will finalize Chapters 3 and 4 and have 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Chapters 6 and 11.
  - March Public Meeting/Vision Statement: The Commission discussed how to get input on the vision statement for the 2020 town plan. They decided to make a short presentation at Town Meeting and solicit feedback via questionnaire. The questionnaire could also be put on the town website and advertised around town. Jason will produce the questionnaire; each member will email him a top 5 questions list. Depending on the

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reaction from Town Meeting the Commission could additionally hold informal presentations at certain advertised evenings at Brownsville Butcher & Pantry for additional feedback/ideas.

- 6) Other Business—The SB asked the Planning Commission to review a proposed town Noise Ordinance and give feedback. The Commission discussed the ordinance and did not have a consensus of reaction, so they decided members would email their thoughts to the SB independently.
- 7) Approve Minutes **Ray moved to approve the January 10<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Brendan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**
- 8) Adjourn—Next meeting was set for March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM and adjourned by unanimous consent 8:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Shearer