

WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

April 29, 2013

Present: Al Keiller, Barbara Truex, Arthur Steinberg, Courtney McKaig, Tom Kenyon, Martha Harrison

1. Call to Order – Planning Commission Chair Barbara Truex called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.
2. Changes or Additions – None
3. Public Comment – Courtney McKaig thanked Arthur for helping with the School Principal search. Courtney also noted that the Five & Dime race is coming up. Courtney said the school is supportive of the “Safe Routes to School” program. Courtney added that she’s going to do a bike safety fair as a kick-off event for creating a School Travel plan with identified safe routes. After that, Courtney said, a scoping study can be done to identify areas that need safety infrastructure, such as crosswalks. Courtney said the *Vermont Standard* ran an article on April 18th about the kids’ presentation to the Planning Commission. Courtney noted the Planning Commission’s scheduled review of the Transportation chapter of the Town Plan and suggested reviewing the Pedestrian Master Plan as well. Courtney gave the PC a copy of the school’s proposed new facility use policy. Barbara asked about the proposed legislation on school use. Arthur said the legislature felt that it was redundant. There was discussion about past and future school use policies.
4. Initial Review – Town Plan Chapter 7 (Natural Resources): The PC agreed that what happened during Tropical Storm Irene and its implications for the future should be discussed under Flood Hazard Areas. Martha noted that a 50’ buffer is only required for wetlands and streams that are under state or federal jurisdiction. Tom said he hopes people are not discouraged from putting in ponds. Martha said the town’s regulations are not *more* restrictive than the state and federal regulations, but they also can’t be *less* restrictive. Barbara said she is concerned about preserving floodplains and addressing the hay bale problem. Barbara suggested mentioning the upcoming geomorphic study and the town’s plans to use the data from the study. Al suggested updating the “current use” and “slope gradient” information. Al said recommendations should be actionable and assigned. Martha said she will check with the Conservation Commission on the status of the vernal pool project. The PC made minor changes to the Natural Resource recommendations. The PC agreed to reference Tii McLane’s reports under the “Wildlife Habitat” section. The PC discussed past efforts to develop ridgeline protection strategies and agreed to modify the Scenic Area Recommendations to reflect their intention to resume their efforts in the future. The PC agreed that they should review the Environmental Mission statement with the highway department. The PC made minor changes to the “Historic Resources” section and agreed to map the sites listed, with assistance from the historical society. The PC also agreed to modify and combine Historic Recommendation #1 and #4. Town Plan Chapter 8 (Transportation): The PC agreed to update the average daily traffic chart after the regional planning commission does the counts this summer. Tom said the loss of Brook Road as a through road should be mentioned. Tom suggested improving Route 44 for foot and pedestrian traffic. Tom also suggested coordinating the construction of the village sewer line with the burying of utilities, the repaving of Route 44, and the installation of pedestrian improvements. The “Seasonal Traffic” section will be revised to reflect the impact of the ski area closing. The PC agreed to make Recommendation #4 more general. Barbara suggested that Jason Rasmussen could help update the census data. Tom said the town is trying to open a footpath on Bowers Road where it intersects with Route 44. Barbara asked about the property adjacent to Bowers Bridge. Tom said the town is waiting for an appraisal.
5. Final Review – Town Plan Chapter 2 (Land Use): The PC agreed to include “architectural style” in the Primary Growth Area, to eliminate Recommendation #11 and to add a recommendation about developing guidelines consistent with Chapter 7. Town Plan Chapter 3 (Utilities & Facilities): The PC made minor changes to Chapter 3 and added two Water & Sewer recommendations. The PC made a minor change to the “Internet” section and agreed to update the section after the May 30th vote on running a fiber optic line from Reading to West Windsor. Town Plan Chapter 5 (Education): Arthur said Chapter 5 does not address the significance of the school. Al commented on the inefficiency of

the low student: teacher ratio in Vermont. Barbara noted all the burdens (e.g. breakfast, in-school suspension, No Child Left Behind) that have been added to schools over the last 20 years. Al noted that Act 60/68 is ineffective and inefficient. Arthur agreed to write an opening paragraph to address some of the issues discussed by the PC. Barbara noted the high turnover among school administrators.

6. Minutes – March 28th: Approval of the minutes was tabled.
7. Other Business – Next meeting: The PC agreed to change their next meeting to Wednesday, May 29th at 9 AM. Barbara suggested reviewing revisions to Chapters 5, 7 and 8 next time and having an initial discussion of Chapter 9.
8. Adjourn – **Arthur moved to adjourn at 11:55 AM. Al seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison