

WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Draft Minutes
February 28, 2013

Present: Al Keiller, Barbara Truex, Arthur Steinberg, Elvin Kaplan, Jason Rasmussen, Martha Harrison, Cathy Boedtke, Laura Stillson

1. Call to Order – Planning Commission Chair Barbara Truex called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
2. Changes or Additions – possible additional meetings
3. Public Comment – None
4. Economic Coordinator report: Cathy Boedtke – Cathy summarized her activities to date, which included meeting with the Afterschool Adventures program, the ice rink group, School & Community in Partnership (SCIP), Paradise Sports, and Orange Lake Resorts. Cathy said Orange Lake would be happy to produce brochures with our information as long as they can use their own logo. Cathy said the Vice President of Orange Lake is concerned about liability with regard to snowmobiles. Cathy said she has talked with the VT Commissioner of Tourism who suggested that Cathy attend one of the Department's "roadshows" to meet everyone and find out what resources are available. Cathy said she also suggested that West Windsor join a Chamber of Commerce. Cathy has also spoken with VTrans about highway signs directing people to our trail system. Cathy expressed concern about changes in the action plan/job description, duplication of effort, and lack of communication. The Planning Commission discussed their concept of the Economic Coordinator position and agreed that the main focus of the position should be marketing the community's recreational facilities and events. Laura said she thinks towns need to work together on economic development and volunteered to help. There was discussion about how to encourage voters to approve funding for this position at Town Meeting. Al said he thinks the PC needs to be able to point to specific outcomes that the Economic Coordinator is expected to achieve this year.
5. Final review of Recreation chapter of Town Plan – After agreeing on a few minor changes, the PC approved the Recreation chapter.
6. Discuss updates and corrections to Town Plan (chapters 1 through 4) – The PC agreed to include an explanation of why the Town Plan was revised and to note which of the 2010 recommendations have been implemented. There was discussion about the Resort's potential for year-round recreational use and agreement that year-round use should be encouraged. In discussing the proposed new goals for the end of Chapter 1, the PC agreed to include "Implement strategies to attract more young families to town." Arthur would like to include local age distribution data in the "Population & Demographics" section. There was discussion about the barriers to young families including the lack of affordable housing, the lack of employment and inadequate internet access. There was also discussion about the things that attract young families to West Windsor, including the school, recreational opportunities, and relaxed regulations on the size of accessory apartments. The PC agreed to include a paragraph in the "Demographics" section that analyzes the statistics presented. The Planning Commission agreed to review Chapter 2 and come to the next meeting with suggestions for revision. There was discussion about possible locations for smaller lots and more affordable housing along existing and/or proposed sewer routes. The PC agreed to include a statement encouraging the fire department to relocate outside the floodplain. Cathy suggested a multi-purpose emergency services building that would include space for the

FAST Squad. The PC agreed to recommend the revision of the flood hazard regulations to comply with state model regulations. Arthur asked about mitigation. Jason explained FEMA's cost-benefit requirement for hazard mitigation grants. The October 2014 deadline for complying with new state regulations was noted. The PC agreed to note the historical nature of the Sheddsville Cemetery. There was discussion about the problems associated with access to and parking for the Cady Mausoleum. The PC agreed to recommend improving access to the Mausoleum. The PC agreed not to change the Section on the Town Forest in Chapter 4.

7. Minutes - January 31st: **Elvin moved to approve the minutes of January 31st as written. All seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
8. Other Business – Martha said there is a law pending that requires Town Plans passed after July 1st to include new flood resiliency requirements. There was discussion about whether to rush to adopt the Town Plan prior to July 1st or to take more time and address the new requirements if the law passes. The PC agreed not to rush. Next meeting: The PC agreed to review Chapters 2 and 5 for the next meeting on March 28th. H.122: Martha noted that the Selectboard sent our state representatives a letter of support for the current draft of H.122.
9. Executive Session: Personnel Matters – **Elvin moved to go into Executive Session at 8:25 PM. Arthur seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. After discussion, the PC came out of Executive Session and agreed, by consensus, to recommend to the Selectboard that Article 7 on the Town Meeting warning be passed over at this time.**
10. Adjourn – **The Planning Commission adjourned by consensus at 8:42 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison