

## WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Draft Minutes  
January 31, 2013

Present: Al Keiller, Mark Isenberg, Barbara Truex, Arthur Steinberg, Elvin Kaplan, Jason Rasmussen, Martha Harrison, Courtney McKaig, Eli Morse, Dave & Michelle Perry, Alice Mello, Albert Bridge students (Ethan Mello, Oz Morse, Chloe McKaig, Amelia Perry, Allison Perry, and Hayley Bean)

1. Call to Order – Planning Commission Chair Barbara Truex called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.
2. Albert Bridge School student “walkability” presentation – Six students from Albert Bridge School presented the results of their assessment of the “walkability” of the village of Brownsville. The students concluded that, although Brownsville is “walkable,” some improvements are needed. The biggest problem was the walk from the school to the Town Hall. Also, there are no crosswalks that show where it is safe to cross the road. The students also shared their thoughts on recreation. One concern is that, due to the lack of sports teams in town (other than soccer), students have to go to other towns to play team sports. The students were also disappointed that the school gym is not open on weekends. Courtney McKaig summarized the walkability assessment, noted that safety and connectivity are the primary concerns, and suggested including ideas for improvement projects in the Town Plan and the Regional Plan. Courtney suggested that pedestrian improvements could be addressed when the village sewer system is constructed. Regarding recreation, Courtney suggested a “shared use policy” between the town and the school. Courtney said the school has a facility use policy but the Town Hall does not. Arthur asked Allison Perry if she has talked to anyone at the school about using the gym on the weekend. Allison said there is no one available to lock the building. Courtney added that there are insurance concerns as well. Courtney offered to work with the newly appointed Economic Coordinator to address the barriers to using the school gym. Barbara said increasing the use of the school gym and the town hall is on the Planning Commission’s list of short-term goals. Eli said the open use policy came up recently at a school board meeting and invited the Planning Commission (PC) to express their interest in the issue to the school board. Courtney complimented the town for keeping the sidewalks clear and the parents for their support of the skating rink. The PC complimented the students on their presentation.
3. Review final draft of Chapter 6 (Recreation) of the Town Plan – Arthur initiated a discussion about logging in the Town Forest and suggested that it might be appropriate to allow residents to cut firewood in the forest. Arthur was encouraged to broach the subject with the Selectboard. The PC agreed to mention the Vermont 100 under Town Roads. There was discussion about safety issues with regard to the recreational use of town roads. There was discussion about how to report the recreation survey results. The PC made minor changes to the existing text under “Summary of 2012 Recreation Survey.” With regard to Act 250, Martha said, it’s important to be specific about what you want and what you don’t want. There was discussion about how to present the Economic Coordinator concept. The PC agreed to include the West Windsor Moonlighters Club under the “Trail Networks” strategy. The PC agreed to encourage expansion of 4-season offerings at the resort but not to evaluate the zoning regulations at this time. There was agreement to include information about the possible donation to the town of the reclaimed tailing pond area behind the talc plant, and its

future recreational use. The PC also agreed to include a strategy addressing the desire for expanded use of the town hall and the gym. The PC agreed to recommend expanding the shoulder area on Route 44 and the Brownsville-Hartland Road to facilitate safe recreational use. The legality of denying development based on the location of a trail was questioned, except where there is an existing easement or right-of-way for the trail. The PC agreed to include a strategy to consider the protection of existing trail easements and rights-of-way when reviewing applications for development. The PC also agreed to eliminate the “Recreation Policies” section. The PC agreed to include a recommendation to cooperate with neighboring towns to establish a regional trail network, with related text in the narrative. Martha noted the state’s request for an Act 250 jurisdictional opinion for a connector trail from the state park to West Windsor’s trail system. The PC agreed to mention the proposed connector trail under “Mount Ascutney” and the plans for a broader regional network under “Future Facilities.” Barbara asked Martha and Jason to revise the recreation chapter and send around a clean copy showing just the new changes discussed tonight.

4. Consider additional minor revision to Chapter 11 (Economic Development) – Jason suggested a minor change to one of the paragraphs in the Commercial/Industrial section. The PC agreed.
5. Other Business – Email from Glenn Seward: Barbara noted an email received from Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward regarding promotion of the upcoming “green season.” Mark said he is not comfortable leaving all of the promotion efforts in the hands of STAB; he would like the town to work in concert with STAB. Barbara said Glenn’s other suggestions could be incorporated in the short term economic plan under the strategic goal of “promoting West Windsor’s recreational facilities and events.” Barbara noted the idea of working with Orange Lake on some special weekend recreation packages. Mark noted the need for some feedback from our Economic Coordinator who was unable to attend the meeting. Barbara shared an email from her which reflected some of her activities to date. She will be invited to attend the February meeting for further detailed updates of her work to that point. Barbara also recommended contacting VT Tourism Department Director Megan Smith, as suggested by our legislators. The PC agreed. Barbara asked Martha to send the PC a revised matrix incorporating Glenn’s ideas. Meeting schedule: The PC confirmed that the last Thursday of the month is still a good day for regular meetings.
6. Minutes - January 9<sup>th</sup>: **Al moved to approve the minutes of January 9<sup>th</sup> as written. Mark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
7. Executive Session: Personnel Matters – **Barbara moved to go into Executive Session. Mark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
8. Adjourn – **The Planning Commission came out of Executive Session with no action taken, and adjourned by consensus at 8:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison