

Townshend Planning Commission
Minutes
May 23, 2018

Present: John Evans; Robert DeSiervo, Brandon Canevari and Andrew Snelling

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Minutes:** DeSiervo made a motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2018 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Canevari and carried unanimously.

3. **Additions and Deletions:** DeSiervo requested that a report on the recent VLCT Spring Planning and Zoning Forum which he attended be added to the agenda. There were no objections. DeSiervo reported that the forum covered an update on recent and pending legislative action, Vermont's Building Energy Standards, municipal responsibility on water runoff from roads and effective zoning enforcement.
DeSiervo stated that Townshend should be making an effort to notify people considering new construction or remodeling of the requirement that they comply with the building energy standards. Snelling mentioned that would be a required part of the conservation goals of an enhanced energy section of the town plan.
DeSiervo was pleased to report that the zoning forum had representatives from surrounding towns, including Jamaica, Newfane, Grafton and Windham. The representatives from the neighboring towns expressed an interest in getting together for a joint planning meeting to discuss the regional issues of the upper West River Valley. Following a discussion of the Commission it was agreed that DeSiervo would try to schedule a joint meeting for June 21 at 7:00 p.m.
One observation DeSiervo had from the zoning discussion was that adopting zoning would be expensive in terms of the added administration costs and the inevitable legal expenses for enforcement.

4. **Members of the Public:** None present

5. **Correspondence:** None received

6. **Old Business:**
Act 174 Energy Plan Snelling reported that he had spoken with Marion Major the energy staff member at WRC and that it appeared likely that the WRC energy plan would be adopted in early July. She also said that they were anticipating being able to

have additional grants available for towns interested in adding Act 174 compliant energy sections. Snelling expressed that Townshend would be interested in adding an Act 174 energy section in the event that planning grants were to be available. After discussion, DeSiervo made a motion that Snelling send Major an email formally expressing the Townsend Planning Commission's interest in being informed about the availability of any energy planning grants. The motion was seconded by Evans and carried unanimously.

Village Center Designation Canevari expressed an interest in working on the Village Center Designation and it was agreed that he would take the lead on that project. It was discussed that the primary beneficiaries of Village Center Designation would be the commercial property owners in the village areas. It was therefore important to determine if they would be inclined to utilize the Village Center Designation program benefits.

Review of Town Plan action items The Commissioners started a review of the 22 action items (page 70 of Town Plan) for implementing the Town Plan. It was noted that only two of the items are the sole responsibility of the Planning Commission and that the Planning Commission will have to work closely with the Selectboard on the bulk of the action items.

It was decided that Evans would talk to Craig Hunt to determine the status of any Town ordinances related to recycling/metal recovery/junkyard facilities and how that would mesh with state regulations

There was a discussion on the benefit of creating an Open Space Plan and of forming a Conservation Commission. There was a question as to the process of forming a Conservation Commission and its role. DeSiervo agreed to make some inquiries to address the questions about Conservation Commissions and their roles. It was agreed to take up discussion of the Transportation action items at the next meeting.

7. **New Business:** none
8. **Other Business:** none
9. **Meeting Schedule:** Regular Meeting: May 23, 2018 @ 7:15 p.m.
Regular Meeting: June 13, 2018 @ 7:15 p.m.
10. **Adjournment:** Evans made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., which carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Snelling