

Wilmington Planning Commission
Meeting April 19, 2017

Meeting called to order by Cheryl LaFlamme, chair, at 5:05 pm.

In attendance: Cheryl LaFlamme (chair), John Lebron (by phone), Wendy Manners Seaman, Angela Yakovleff, Craig Ohlson,

Additions to the agenda

Approve minutes of March 27, 2017 meeting

Review Town Plan Report

Corrections were made in formatting and typographical errors.

Wendy made a motion to accept the Planning Commission Town Plan report with discussed changes.

John seconded (by phone).

In favor 4

Opposed 0

Approved

Approval of minutes of March 27, 2017 meeting

Change date in report to reflect correct meeting date of March 27, 2017.

John (by phone) made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrected date.

Cheryl seconded.

In favor 3

Opposed 0

Abstain 1

Approved

Wendy was contacted by Windham Regional concerning a call received by them asking about the meaning of the language in the Town Report "legally and enforceable."

Discussion and explanation with references to the Town Plan were pointed out.

Wendy moved to suspend the meeting at 5:33. John seconded (by phone).

In favor 4

Opposed 0

John will be called again to join the meeting with the Select Board.

Meeting recalled to order by Cheryl at 6:32 pm.

Select Board chair Tom Fitzgerald had questions concerning the subcommittees presented in the Town Plan. How will we staff the positions?

It will require volunteerism. At the public meeting in January there were approximately forty (40) people who were engaged. Other committees in tow also feed into these committees: community, facilities and services, flood resiliency, economic development, and natural resources and energy

What happens if the quotas are not filled?

There will be some cross over with other organizations such as Wilmington Works. It is looking at a broad spectrum, not just downtown.

Flood resilience is being looked at all year by the planning commission.

Natural Resources and Energy has a small core of interested people who are “highly passionate,” as well as other agencies.

Community Services has a group of interested members whose work is on-going.

Will we be penalized by the state if goals are not met?

State acceptance of Town Plans has changed expiration from five to eight years. At four years there will be a review process to ensure the town is moving toward accountability.

Who oversees this in Montpelier?

VLCT and part of ACCD

Issues will be brought forward for review.

Are we restricting too much or duplicating services?

It is better to understand what the consequences are if the goals are not met.

Tom had a question about the Town Charter.

Craig had researched this and explained the original charter was a land charter in 1751. The conditions were not upheld by the grantees so it was voided.

A second charter was granted in 1763 where the Town was named Draper then later changed to back to Wilmington.

This was not a governance charter.

Correction will be made to Town Plan inserting the words, “land grant.”

Ann Manwaring was curious about the phrase “legally enforceable standards.” Why are we using this phrase?

Wendy cited the explanation in the Town Plan.

Ann was also concerned about the section on education. There is “a perception that people are leaving because the education is not as good.”

There was discussion about the relationship of the Select Board and the School Board, and their work in concert and individually.

The Town Plan is a Select Board document so responsibilities cited lie with the Select Board.

Where did the numbers in the data come from?
They are based on the 2010 census.

Some changes in wording for agreement of data noted on different pages will be made.

Cheryl asked about the list of priorities that had been given to the Select Board. She noted the Planning Commission would like to meet to compare our priorities list with the Large Capital Priority list. These lists need to be sent to John Gannon and Sarah Fisher, who were both in attendance by phone.

Ann Manwaring will work on a rewrite of the education "blurb."

What do we want to do about the four year review?
The WRC will look at the plan.

Ann asked if other plans have an implementation plan like our committees. Wendy is not sure but noted the state is going to be reviewing plans.

The question was asked as to whether we needed to resubmit the Town Plan with changes?
Yes, then we only need a hearing.

Tom noted we are not putting ourselves under pressure to implement this. Vince agreed saying , "especially because so many concern money."

Cheryl asked about the Zoning Ordinance document. Did the Select Board review it?
The Select Board acknowledges receipt.
The Planning Commission held separate hearings for the Town Plan and The Zoning Ordinance.
The town is not in 100% consensus with the Zoning Ordinance although several changes were made after the hearing.

Wendy made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm
Angela seconded.
In favor 4
Opposed 0

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Yakovleff, PC scribe