

## **Royalton Planning Commission: September 20, 2016**

Called to Order by Chair Beth Willhite at 7:06 PM

### **Present:**

Chair Beth Willhite,

Bushrod Powers,

Tim Dreisbach,

Jim Rikert

Roni Johnson,

Stuart Levasseur,

Nell Gwin

Mark Wood

Absent: David Brandau

### Reviewed minutes from September 6 meeting

Tim Dreisbach made a motion to accept secretaries report, seconded by Jim Rikert. Motion passed unanimously.

### Mailbox

Chair Beth Willhite reported on correspondence received.

A packet from Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission on the VT Way to Go Challenge, containing posters announcing the event which is September 26- October 7. Due to the late arrival of this information there did not appear to be enough time to organize a team.

NOFA VT sent information about activities that support farms, discussion about possible events might include meetings about how to support agriculture, farmer's dinner on the green.

RPC received notice from the Royalton Selectboard that the annual dues for TRORC were paid. These dues enable RPC to get support from TRORC in matters such as drafting town plans etc.

Vermont League of Cities and Towns sent information on their town fair event, October 5&6 at the Champlain Valley Fair Grounds. There are several topics scheduled such as: conflicts of interest, Open meeting law. VLCT is also hosting a Planning and Zoning forum at the Capitol Plaza on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Agency of Natural Resources Seminar

Nell Gwin and Stuart Levasseur provided a brief overview of the ANR session that they attended on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The sessions included Managing Natural Resources, Making a Town Plan, Energy Plans, and Revitalization and Citizen Engagement.

### Town Plan update discussion

TRORC's Chris Sargent has provided feedback on the current Royalton Town Plan, which RPC will be reviewing with these comments with the intent to strengthen the language of the plan where needed.

### Crawford Property Walk

RPC members walked areas of the Crawford property on September 10 to assess the land. There was discussion about trails and potential building lots.

### NewVista Meeting October 4th

David Hall has cancelled his appearance at the October 4<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting, citing concerns for his safety due to protesters. Hall offered to meet with RPC without public in attendance, RPC declined as our meetings are open to the public.

RPC will continue with the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting without Hall, the RPC felt this would be a good opportunity to get public feedback on the Newvista proposal. The discussion focused on how to get useful input without having a complaint session. The idea is to ask public for their concerns, so the RPC can represent the town's interest. RPC will be asking people to write questions on cards, there will be some general topics suggested to keep the questions focused. (topics may change) Topics to include: What are your biggest concerns about Newvista; Pluses and minuses concerning local control; Questions for David Hall; Jobs associated with Newvista; Do you see any value in the Newvista plan?

Tim Dreisbach proposed an idea of approaching Hall about small business development without the city concern.

Chair Beth Willhite will be attending a meeting soon with chairs of the 4 towns in response to Newvista. No date set.

Willhite announced that she was interviewed by VPR about the cancelled meeting, (the segment aired on 9-21-2016 ~7:15 am).

### Recording Secretary

Sandy El Hage has notified the RPC that she will no longer be able to fill the role of recording secretary, the RPC asked Stuart Levasseur to consider the position. Levasseur accepted.

Motion made by Bushrod Powers, second by Jim Rikert; Passed unanimously to appoint Stuart Levasseur to the position.

### Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Dreisbach, second by Bushrod Powers. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM

Next Planning Commission Meeting: Tuesday, October 4th, 2016 at 7 PM EST at

Royalton Academy Building. Submitted by: Stuart Levasseur, Recording Secretary