

Members Present:

Stuart Levasseur
Jim Rikert
Bushrod Powers
David Brandau
Mark Wood
Nell Gwin
Sarah Danly

The RPC meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Stuart Levasseur, Chair.

Potential new member:

Tom (“Geo”) Honigford is interested in becoming a member of the RPC. Bushrod Powers moved that the Planning Commission recommends to the Selectboard to appoint Tom Honigford to the Planning Commission. David Brandau seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved and Stuart Levasseur will pass on the recommendation to the Selectboard.

Municipal Planning Grant:

This is essentially a grant to hire TRORC to help us plan – the money is not to do the project, is to plan the project. The first idea for a project is to hire TRORC to provide more detailed assistance on the Town Plan; the Town Plan needs to be reapproved in 2020 and it will take about a year to renew so we have to start soon. Is there anything else that could fit into that municipal planning category, like the sidewalk study? The Selectboard wants to talk in person with the RPC before the RPC meets with TRORC. Should be about a \$10,000 grant and we have to put up 10%.

Discussion of Other Upcoming Planning Issues:

The group discussed other potential ideas and issues that could be incorporated into the Municipal Planning Grant, the upcoming Town Plan, the Crawford Lot plan, or the upcoming VCRD process:

- At the Act 250 conference that was hosted at VLS, there did not seem to be any issues that the RPC should work to address, but the Commission will pay attention to any upcoming changes.
- Parts of Royalton do have significance in the wildlife corridors in this part of Vermont.
- At a meeting between the selectboard chairs of Royalton, Sharon, Tunbridge, and Strafford, there was discussion about a trail in the area. Tunbridge had looked at it previously and some landowners were opposed to the idea of giving a right of way. But we do have VAST trails through town. There is also interest in looking into creation of a riverwalk in Royalton.

- The current sidewalk study is only looking at the downtown area for ADA compliance. One of the ideas for applying for another planning grant is to extend the sidewalk study.

After discussion about whether any of these other projects could also be included in the application for a Municipal Planning Grant, the RPC felt that the Town Plan is a significant enough project on its own. Furthermore, ideas for other projects such as a trail system, can be developed further during the process of creating the new Town Plan, which would then be additional support in applying for future planning grants specifically for those projects.

The RPC plans to start working on redoing the town plan by the first of the year if not earlier.

- This will also be coordinated with the VCRD planning process if that happens.
- The RPC would like the consultant (TRORC or otherwise) to help with a community engagement process, especially if the RPC considers subdivision and zoning.

Nell Gwin motioned that the RPC apply for the Municipal Planning Grant to work on the Town Plan. Bushrod Powers seconded. After discussion on the logistics, Mark Wood amended the motion to be that the RPC meet with the Selectboard in person and be approved to apply for the grant; Nell Gwin seconded and the amendment passed. The RPC unanimously passed the amended motion and Stuart Levasseur will coordinate with the Selectboard.

Approving minutes:

Draft minutes of three previous meetings were shared. David Brandau moved to approve all three and Mark Wood seconded. The three sets of minutes were approved.

Crawford Plan:

The Commission reviewed the list of suggestions for the lot that have been suggested by various parties over the past few months. Since the last Commission meeting, several things had been added, and one additional suggestion, of a track for the high school, was added during the discussion. No vote was required at this stage as ideas are still being collected. At the September RPC meeting, the Commission will review all of the ideas more closely and prioritize them in order to make recommendations to the Selectboard.

Food Truck Rally:

The Food Truck Rally will be Aug 22nd with at least four food trucks and live music.

Next Meeting:

The meeting will be September 4th.

There was a motion to adjourn that was seconded and passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.