

RPC_Minutes_2019.08.06

Planning Commission Members Present:

David Brandau
Sarah Danly
Geo Honigford
Jim Rikert
Stuart Levasseur
Nell Gwin
Roni Johnson

Other Attendees:

Jan Eberly, VT Department of Health

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm by Stuart Levasseur, Chair.

The Planning Commission resumed editing the template for the new Health and Wellness chapter.

- There was a desire to add a list of the other organizations and contacts that could help with the Healthy Homes section. Jim Rikert will look up the agencies and provide the list.
 - The Dept of Health website has pages for various health concerns... we can list them as a source of information as well.
- The group discussed the background section on environmental quality. While the template contained good general information, there was nothing about its applicability specifically to Royalton. Language was added about the prevalence of older buildings and associated health concerns, and the added risks of water contamination due to being downstream in the watershed.
- A list of examples of community events was added.
- The group discussed the Faith, Wisdom and Spirituality paragraph and determined that the underlying intent was about inclusion. This ties in with the social inclusion section so the Commission combined them.
- Jan Eberly answered clarifying questions about the Health Impact Assessment process, when it can be applied, and who might be considered stakeholders.
 - She pointed out that if you have done a HIA that proves a project will be beneficial, that will strengthen grant applications, including for VTrans grants. It can also help identify when a proposed project will not be be beneficial and is not worth pursuing.
 - Give this, the group decided to add a recommendation that the town consider conducting HIAs when appropriate.
- The group discussed the section on substance abuse and the potential to have a sign ordinance to cut down on advertising of substances. There would be no legal way to single out tobacco, alcohol, etc., it would have to be addressed with an overall sign ordinance

- The PC acknowledge that there is some advertising for this in town but not to a great enough extent for addressing it with an ordinance.
- While discussing the substance abuse section the group also discussed Narcan and public awareness of what to do if someone has overdosed. It was noted that EMTs carry it but also anyone in town who counts as search and rescue, such as game wardens.
- The group discussed the desire to create alternate opportunities for at-risk youth to help them avoid substance abuse, and noted that the background section talks about many aspects of building a positive town culture.

Other Business

- Mark Wood is considering stepping off of the commission in which case there will be an open seat.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.