

APPROVED

HUNTINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of February 25, 2013

PRESENT: Dana Cummings, Everett Marshall, Ginger Lubkowitz, Julia Austin, Gordon Miller

ABSENT: Knox Cummin, Heather Pembroke

OTHERS PRESENT: Regina Mahony (CCRPC), Ed Booth (Huntington rep, CCRPC)

MINUTES: Heidi Racht

Agenda

6:59 pm MEETING BEGINS
7 pm Town Plan
8:45 Village Code update
8:50 Minutes of February 11, 2013
 Mail
9 pm Discussion of upcoming business / agenda requests
 March 11: Conservation Commission to discuss Land Use, etc.
 March 25: Village Hill Final Subdivision Review (tentatively scheduled pending
 receipt of completed application and fees)
9:15 pm Member Business
9:25 Public Comment
9:30 pm Adjourn

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm, chaired by Dana Cummings

The order of the agenda was revised to discuss the ECOS.

Minutes of February 11, 2013	Ginger Lubkowitz moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2013; seconded by Julia Austin. The minutes of February 11, 2013 were approved with edits.
ECOS Plan	The order of the agenda was revised to discuss the ECOS Plan (Environment, Community Opportunity Sustainability) with Regina Mahony of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and Ed Booth, Huntington's rep to the CCRPC. Mahony presented the proposed ECOS Plan, which is a new document that combines the Regional Plan, the CCMPO Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which had been a function of the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC). The plan was handed off by the ECOS Steering Committee to CCRPC and GBIC. There is a public hearing on March 20 and the goal is to adopt the document by June.

She noted that the full plan is very long, but the aggregate is shorter than the three separate plans. The plan has four main sections:

1. Overview and Vision
2. Analysis and Current Conditions
3. Strategies and Actions
4. Using the Plan

She reviewed Chapter 2, which has 17 topics. The overview included housing, energy, transportation with goals and data.

Chapter 3 details strategies and actions. Mahony pointed out that the region is lacking building space and technical schools that will provide the region with a workforce. The emphasis will be on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). She also noted that the new plan will place 80% of the development in 15% of the geographic area.

The strategies were all reviewed. Highlights included:

- Water quality and culvert updates for flood control
- keeping the working landscape working
- public health, which is tied to land use – feasibility for people to walk and make healthier choices
- governments and finance – fiscally aware and conservative about where public funds go
- all residents are engaged , not just the people who show up

Chapter 4 details how this plan is used. The municipal plan will be reviewed for compatibility to make sure that one doesn't prohibit the other from being effective in its mission.

Mahony then went on to explain the CCRPC will now be participating in Act 250 applications that go to hearings, mostly with regional impacts.

The plan spells out traffic criteria.

Everett Marshall pointed out the current plan discusses how agricultural lands are protected, but forestland isn't. He thought CCPRC should be encouraged to deal with productive forest soils, which are existing criteria under Act 250.

In Chapter 4, which contains the comprehensive economic development strategy, transportation plans and other projects are outlined. It will open up the list to accomplish this and could lead to changes in the zoning.

Federal economic development funds, although scarce could be used for community development projects. An example of this is the water lines in Milton.

She discussed the Sustainable Communities Program, which is funded by a HUD grant. Mahony commented that with limited funds, “We need to make sure we are putting the limited public money that have in the right places.”

Gordon Miller questioned the figures in Chapter 3, noting that the figures “don’t add up.” Mahony explained that there were two separate projections producing different numbers.

Miller then asked about actions for 3.2.8. Mahony said that this was the “least cooked” strategy. The plan would track and analyze inequities in all sectors and target and attract investors. Decisions would be made to the benefit of everyone – the benefits will help the largest percentage of the population.

Civic engagement will encourage partnership. She explained that HUD’s concern was unrepresented groups.

Ed Booth discussed the economically disadvantaged population in Burlington and Winooski. Everett Marshall responded, “We have working poor.” He went on to say that an underrepresented segment of the rural population is a single mother, noting it is “more difficult to get support.”

Mahony replied that the terminology is “odd,” low opportunity in urban areas doesn’t reflect the “opportunity” in rural areas.

She went on, “Typically the MPO would solicit projects for the work plan. The groups are now working together.” She used transportation and land use to make the planning connection, noting “You can do one well without doing the other.

Another point is enhanced consultation for getting plans approved and checking in on training and work. CCRPC will also be looking at municipals plans and comparing them against State planning goals.

Mahony presented a one-sheet assessment of the Huntington Town Plan that was adopted June 18, 2012.

She reported that the American Planning Association will hold a short course which is open to anyone (at no cost to the participant) and can participate in one session.

Dana Cummings said that the HPC wants to move to a DRB. He noted that it would be helpful to have someone meet with the Commission to discuss the DRB and how a smooth transition accomplished.

The discussion then moved to the status of the DRB. Ginger Lubkowitz asked

	<p>what needed to happen and “how can we make it happen?” Cummings said the goal was to get the Town Plan revision done and then target newly elected positions for 2014.</p> <p>Marshall pointed out that the ECOS related to the plan of outlying communities as it pushed for rural hubs. He said, “We have the highest per capita energy costs” in the county and this was because of fuel used by commuters. Hubs would reduction energy costs and pollution and also take the stress off the infrastructure.</p> <p>There followed an animated discussion on transportation. The idea of a connector from the Hinesburg Country Store in South Hinesburg through Huntington to the Link Express at the Richmond commuter parking lot was one idea that met with enthusiasm. Ed Booth said he has passed this idea on to a CCTA representative who have him information that he then passed on to Huntington Town Administrator Barbara Elliott.</p> <p>Heidi Racht talked about SSTA’s many single-rider trips to Huntington. There was discussion about a more coordinated effort. She then talked about the Champlain Islands’ CIDER program, which the Huntington elder housing group that became HERO had visited.</p> <p>Cummings asked about the regional conservation offsets, to which Mahony explained that a town usually identifies a place to conserve in exchange for greater density in a designated area. It usually happens in one town, rather than as a county initiative. South Burlington has it; the southeast quadrant has some protected areas. However, South Burlington is having some problems with it – the people who are getting the development being ok with the level of development.</p> <p>The discussion concluded with Commission members explaining that the Form Based Code and water/wastewater initiatives were the priorities of the HPC after the Town Plan.</p> <p>Ed Booth said that he is stepping down as the Huntington rep to CCRPC and wanted to find someone to replace him. He noted, “It makes sense to have a planning person.”</p>
Appreciation	The Commission took some time to eat berry pie and toast Ginger Lubkowitz who is not running for re-election in March.
Mail	1. Wastewater permit, dated January 31, 2013, for Adam and Stephanie Osekoski, 519 Economou Road.
Town Plan	There was general discussion around proceeding with the Town Plan. Ginger Lubkowitz said she would continue to work on the sections she had started.

	<p>Julia Austin offered to review the introduction to the Town Plan.</p> <p>The Commission discussed following the Stowe format, which follows the state requirements. Mentioned was made of the Vermont Planning Information Center. Austin said that she made a list and then reviewed the state recommended format and was able to sort and create goals.</p>
Agendas	<p>The Conservation Commission would like to discuss the Town Plan at the meeting on March 11. The HPC decided to work on Land Use at that meeting.</p> <p>Maps had been dropped off for the Village Hill project. The Commission decided to not take any action (looking at the maps) until the entire application has been submitted. Dana Cummings will be called when all the documents are in to make sure the application is complete and a hearing will be scheduled.</p>

Adjournment: Ginger Lubkowitz moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Everett Marshall. The Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES TO THE HPC: March 3, 2013

MINUTES APPROVED: March 11, 2013

APPROVED MINUTES TO THE TOWN CLERK: March 14, 2013

March 11, 2013 Proposed Agenda

- 6:59 pm MEETING BEGINS
- 7 pm Town Plan Section on Land Use
with Conservation Commission
- 9 pm Minutes of February 25, 2013
Mail
- 9:15 pm Discussion of upcoming business / agenda requests
March 25: Village Hill Final Subdivision Review (tentatively scheduled pending
receipt of completed application and fees)
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