

Royalton Planning Commission

APPROVED – Minutes

Monday, September 28, 2009

Members Attending: Beguin, Boles, Gravel, Judge, Levasseur

Guests Attending: Sally Hull of Two Rivers, Joan Goldstein of the Select Board, Ernie Amsden, Rob and Kathy Romeo, Mary Gavin (Sharon Planning Commission), Kira Bryers (Note Taker)

Meeting came to order at 7:07 PM.

1. Public Hearing for September 28 Town Plan

- Levasseur stated that she has received suggestions from Kathy Hazlitt from Upper Valley Health Connections
- Levasseur asked Mary Gavin – Gavin said no, but she stated that it's stylistically very different from the Sharon Town Plan
- Levasseur shared the five suggestions received from Hazlitt:
 - p. 17 – At top of page, add to Goal Statement to read “and to preserve and enhance the health of the community and its residents”
 - Beguin stated that she doesn't feel this is necessary
 - Gravel asked how it is possible to plan for “health of residents”
 - Levasseur stated that the planning for recreation facilities touches on this idea
 - p. 22 – Suggestion that under Recreation Facilities at the bottom paragraph, add “the Royalton Recreation Committee is committed to providing activities and recreation for everyone”
 - Beguin stated that she doesn't feel this is necessary
 - Amsden stated that recreation facilities are supposed to be for everyone, not just for children
 - Discussion ensued about actual activities provided by this body
 - Gravel suggested adding “year-round recreation for the community” and prefers that there is a broad promise to everyone in the community, followed by special activities listed for children
 - Levasseur suggested to change to “Royalton has a recreation committee that provides social and physical activities for all ages. The summer program for children includes swimming lessons...” to reflect Gravel's suggestion
 - p. 23 under “Health and Social Services” – Vermont Center for Independent Living, EyeCare for You and Family Place would all like “and Health Connections of the Upper Valley, a health care planning and prevention organization” added. Levasseur did not see a problem with adding their name
 - Gravel asked what Health Connections is – Town Plan supports this kind of organization

→ p. 43 under “Recommendations” – suggestion to add “Including consideration of safe walkways and bicycle paths to encourage pedestrian means of accessing the downtown area”

- Levasseur feels that this paragraph addresses parking problems and it might be that if something about bicycles and walkways should be included, it would be better served by its own paragraph

- Amsden stated that bike paths and walkways are already mentioned

- Beguin feels that it should be made into a separate sentence – Gravel

agreed

- Levasseur stated that it will be added separately as Item #8 – “Encourage the development and maintenance of safe walkways and bicycle paths to support pedestrian access to the downtown area”

→ p. 51 – Land Use – suggestion to add a #5 under “Objectives”: “To support and offer opportunities for community recreation”

- Levasseur stated that she feels this is out of place

- Levasseur does not have any other suggestions for improvements to the Town Plan
- Public hearing adjourned at 7:30 PM
- Judge moved to accept new changes and Beguin seconded. All others in favor. Motion carries.
- Judge moved to submit the Plan (with additions) to the Select Board and Beguin seconded. All others in favor. Motion carries.

2. Meeting Minutes 8/24/09 and 9/8/09

- 8/24/09 – Judge moved to accept and Boles seconded. Beguin, Boles, Judge and Levasseur in favor. Gravel abstained. Motion carries.

- 9/8/09 – Third bullet down – These are Levasseur’s words and not Marc Lucas’ and will be stricken from the draft minutes.

→ Judge moved to accept as amended and Beguin seconded. All in favor.

Motion carries.

3. Lucky’s Motorsports Revised Act 250 Plan

- Lucky’s is applying for an amendment to their Act 250 permit
- There will be a public hearing with a site visit on Tuesday, 10/6/09 at 9:00 AM (hearing will immediately follow at the Journey Church)
- Amendment is asking to put in a snowmobile trail that comes down from Waterman Road to ravine to back area of where the proposed Park and Ride is situated to get to Lucky’s
- Levasseur stated that there are a few fence and lighting issues and Lucky’s wants to display vehicles in an area which their original Act 250 permit did not allow
- Neighbors are concerned about lights, banners and violation of original conditions to permit
- Amsden stated that all of Lucky’s requests in the Amendment were denied the first time by the Act 250 Board

- Concerns: 1) Distractions from stuff out front on Route 107 side; 2) Snowmobile trail will wind up with snowmobiles cutting across and down Waterman Road to the gas station instead of taking the trail around
→ Trail is already there and it's already a problem – Closely situated to intersection (this close situation is supposed to change with the construction of the new parking lot)
- This hearing was set up to discuss the proposed changes and to see if Act 250 feels they are correct and to grant them
- The Romeos have a horse field right next to this area and are concerned with how steep and blind the hill onto Waterman Road is → Discussion ensued
- RPC wants Park and Ride to go through – discussion ensued
- Judge asked if there needs to be a Motion for Levasseur to attend the hearing and express RPC's concerns – yes, there does
- Judge moved to have Levasseur attend the hearing and Beguin seconded. All others in favor. Motion carries.

4. Next Meeting

- The next RPC meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2009.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Judge moved to adjourn. Beguin seconded. All others in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kira S. Bryers

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