

Royalton Planning Commission

APPROVED – Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2009

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

Guests Attending: Peg Trombly (Select Board), Larry Trottier (Select Board), Kira Bryers (Note Taker)

Meeting came to order at 7:05 PM.

1. December 8, 2008 Minutes

- Gravel moved to accept. Beguin seconded. All in favor. Motion carries as accepted.

2. December 2008 Draft of the Royalton Town Plan

- Levasseur distributed the cover letter Sally Hull of TRORC sent accompanying the most recent draft of the Town Plan
- Goldstein asked the Select Board members present if they had received the most recent copies of the Draft Plan
- Trombly asked what Hull's role was in the Town Plan. Levasseur stated that Hull helped the RPC work through the changes she proposed
- Levasseur explained that the yellow highlighted text connotes text that has been moved. Not different per se, just reorganized.
- Goldstein and Beguin stated that clarifications were made because previous items and statistics didn't make sense
- Goals/Objectives/Recommendations: Order was changed per Hull's recommendations
- Additional statistics and information about the town added – statistics, land use, etc. that weren't listed in the previous Town Plan
- Levasseur cited pages 3-4 (Town Regulations section was rewritten) – Hull took the list in the old Town Plan and gave a brief explanation for each item in this Town Plan. RPC decided to include a list of all of the other ordinances applicable to the Town Plan
- Bottom of Page 4: Description of Act 250 and how it works changed
- Page 5: Capital Budget Program, Restrictive Covenants, Land Use, and other tools available for people to use were added
- Trombly asked about the last paragraph on Page 4 – does this mean now that the Plan will be more than advisory or will stay as advisory-only? The Plan will stay as advisory only
- Page 10: Without looking at the old Plan, RPC isn't sure which things were changed and which ones were not

- Goals and Policies: “Should” was felt to be pointless because it was irrelevant in that section → It was just a projection of what the RPC felt the town should be
- Levasseur asked if there was any comment on the content in yellow mentioned so far → Beguin stated that all the information about Act 250 was put in one place
- Beguin also stated that the key thing about this Draft Plan is that it’s more “user-friendly”
- Levasseur stated that the main first part of yellow (Pages 2-5) doesn’t reflect changes so much as clarifying the material already present
- Trombly asked if the Pollution Abatement Ordinance is listed (there are actually two Pollution Ordinance Abatements) – it isn’t listed in the current Draft and needs to be added
- Trombly also asked if the Onsite Sewer Abatement should be left in because the state now takes care of the issues the Abatement covers
 - Judge suggested moving it from Ordinances to Regulation
 - Trottier stated that Regulation is a good place for the Abatement in order to make it more user-friendly
 - Hull will be asked about moving the Abatement
 - Boles pointed out that as of July 1, 2007, you must go to the state for issues covered by the Abatement
 - Beguin asked if the Select Board needs to retract the Abatement. Hull will be asked about this
- Pages 6-7: Population explanation greatly expanded using census data
- Judge stated that there is a year or more to review the Draft Plan to submit it for Town Meeting Day 2010 – suggested that there should be a legislative process for the Select Board reviewing the plan, forming subcommittees, and taking the time to review the Plan in a relaxed manner
- Levasseur asked Trombly if the Select Board needs to approve such a subcommittee
- Goldstein asked what the normal process for review is → Trombly stated that there is no typical review process because this Plan is much more in-depth than the older version
- Pages 21-22: Pollution Abatement Ordinance mentioned. Trombly suggested removing this reference
 - Hull will be asked if this reference is appropriate because the state regulates this
- Levasseur stated that the meeting is more to introduce the Select Board to the changes that have been made
- Judge suggested that the Plan not be presented to the people of the town until the RPC and Select Board are synched on the Plan
- The next major area with a lot of yellow highlighting is Natural and Historic Resources (Chapter 3)
 - A few new words added on Page 9
 - Page 10: Wording changed and tightened up
 - Makes RPC more sure of itself
- Primary Agricultural Land – Productive Forest Soils and Earth Resources
 - Most changes here are to add statistics

- Productive Soils: more descriptive wording added
- Bottom of Page 12: New description of woodlands added and how much they are in current use described
- Page 13: New information on Groundwater added
- Earth Resources: Should here is not really new
- Trottier asked about gray items: word changes from shall/should?
 - In most cases, they point out a change from should/shall and vice versa
- Levasseur pointed out the difference between the Earth Resources sections of the old and new Draft Town Plan
 - First “should” wasn’t there (added in new version) → cited as an example that not every gray should/shall was different and has been changed
- Pages 14-15: New paragraph about snowmobiling added
- Page 14: Information about Macintosh Pond added
- Page 15: Scenic Areas → new information added
- Page 18: Public Land and Buildings – reworded from old Plan
 - Section on Sarnoff property and buildings added
- Fire Rescue: More changes to this section will need to be made because Fire Rescue will begin charging people for calls
- Page 19: Water Service → Updated information added
 - Levasseur asked that the Select Board take notice if anything needs to be changed
 - Trombly asked if the statistics included will be applicable by the time the Plan is voted on
 - Levasseur stated that unless there is a significant reason to, no changes to these statistics need be made
- Page 20: Wind Towers added
- Page 24: Childcare (new as of re-adoption of Town Plan two years ago) has been enlarged
- Chapter 5: The Economy – no significant content change in the various yellows on Page 25. Simply bolsters the opinion of what kind of economy the town seeks
- Page 26: The last two yellow paragraphs are also clarifying opinion (no significant changes made)
- Page 27: The chart and the paragraph below it have been added to show the growth of farms
- Page 28: Pertinent information as far as what’s happening in town
- Page 29: Similar changes to Page 28
- Page 30: Household income – similar changes to Pages 28 and 29
 - Since the last town plan, Royalton participated in the village designation center, so the town plan now reflects this and what the village designation will do for Royalton
- Page 31: Some new content added on Economic Future
 - Isn’t particularly different from other areas of the plan, but information is put together here
- Page 32: Chapter 6 (Energy) – Levasseur asked if the town has an energy plan
 - Trombly and Trottier stated that they don’t think so

- Page 33: First three sentences with yellow reflect the things that towns are encouraging for fuel/energy efficiency
- Pages 33-35: Alternative Energy Sources – these are informational
- Chapter 7 (Housing): Small yellow sentences here are intended to support other things in the Plan
- Page 37: Adds statistical information
- Pages 38-39: Also adds statistical information (and graphs)
- Page 40: Also adds statistical information
- Page 41 (Chapter 8 – Education): Adds updated information on the number of students and enrollments
 - Adds information on the new gym and a note to keep track of the construction

progress

- Page 42: Vocational Opportunities – information added
- Page 43 (Chapter 9 – Transportation): Small changes for clarification/informational purposes
 - Beguin asked if Number 6 is happening – no as of right now
- Pages 44-45: Town Highway Classifications – is now more descriptive and defined
 - Discussion ensued about Class 1 and Class 2 Roads – RPC will ask Hull and

this section may be rewritten

- Pages 46-47: A lot of yellow denotes that this section has been made more descriptive
 - Access Management – differently worded from old Plan as it describes the considerations for keeping access to 107 to smaller numbers
 - Some of this information comes from state guidelines
- Pages 48-50: Made more informational and descriptive
 - Trombly asked about the Park and Ride (mid-Page 48 and 49)
- Page 51 (Chapter 10 – Land Use): Lots of attention paid to the shoulds and shalls and RPC tried to better word this section
- Pages 53-54: Land Use Regulations and Act 250 are described together (shoulds are gone per state regulations)
- No difference to the Appendix but there is a new Map
 - Issues with deer yards
- Levasseur stated that this is a good beginning to show the Select Board of how the RPC went about changing the old Town Plan and suggested starting up the subcommittee in February 2009
- Beguin asked if the RPC is starting work on the Land Development Bylaws again – Levasseur said yes
- Judge suggested contacting the Vermont League of Cities and Towns about the Bylaws

3. Next Meeting

The next RPC meeting will be held on January 26, 2009.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Judge moved to adjourn. Beguin seconded. All in favor of adjourning. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kira S. Bryers

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