

Royalton Planning Commission

APPROVED – Minutes

Monday, December 8, 2008

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

Guests Attending: Meghan O'Donnell of Professor Duane's Land Use Regulation Class at Vermont Law School, Kira Bryers (Note Taker)

Meeting came to order at 7:03 PM.

1. November 24, 2008 Minutes

- Royalton Park and Ride: fifth bullet down will be amended to read "turnaround" instead of "public transit bus"
- Davis Driveway: will be changed from "Happy Hollow Road" to "Harlow Road"
- Gravel moved to accept. Boles seconded. Goldstein abstained. All others in favor. Motion carries as accepted.

2. Royalton Planning Commission Budget Request

- The budget request has not changed significantly since October 24, 2007, so last year's is being used
- Brandau suggested reducing the budgeted amount for Professional Consultation (\$4,000). Brandau moved to reduce this amount by \$1,000. Gravel seconded. Brandau suggested that the Select Board could always be asked for more money if necessary (since this expenditure will be reduced).
- Brandau asked about the actual expenditures incurred by the RPC for the year → Discussion ensued about who keeps track of these expenditures
- Other amounts in the budget discussed
- TRORC Dues stand out as a line item
- 2006-2007 Professional Consultation cost RPC \$6,502.00 with a \$3,000 budget request for these services
- 2007-2008 budget request was \$3,000 for Professional Consultation
- Discussion ensued about the necessity of a line item for education
- \$1,000 budgeted for education in the highway department
- Levasseur stated that there has been conflict over budget items in the past
- Goldstein stated that she does not understand why RPC is voting on budget requests if the actual RPC expenditures for this year are unknown at this point
- Note Taker's wages were budgeted at a higher amount two years ago
- Judge asked when vote needs to be taken to submit the budget request to the town → Must be done today or tomorrow. Levasseur stated that the town is hoping to have the RPC budget request by tomorrow for their meeting

- Beguin asked if any requisitions for funds have been made – none have been made in a long time
- No publicity and printing costs incurred this year (except for hearings for informational meetings)
- Judge asked about getting a list of actual expenditures for next year's budget request
- Levasseur stated that it is possible that town would reduce the budget when they receive the request – Goldstein asked why RPC would reduce the budget only to have it reduced again → if expenses are incurred, they should be available for the RPC to review and try to reduce to be prudent in reducing expenditures
- Gravel stated that she would like to be able to say that \$1,000 was actually reduced to show good faith in bad economic times
- Motion: to reduce the budget request by \$1,000 by changing the Professional Consultation from \$4,000 to \$3,000. Beguin, Boles, Brandau, and Judge in favor. Goldstein abstained. Motion carries. Total RPC budget request will be reduced from \$8,701 to \$7,701.

3. Report on Last Year's Activities

- This report must be submitted. Levasseur composed a draft but welcomes comments
- Comma should be added after “draft”? Discussion ensued
- Sentence will be changed to “working on the draft of the proposed Developmental Ordinance”
- “Development Ordinance” will be changed to “Land Development Bylaws”
- Goldstein asked if “proposed” and “draft” are both necessary – proposes denotes that it hasn't been voted on yet, draft means that it's in the stages of drafting
- Brandau moved to submit. Beguin seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

4. New Business

1) Bylaws

- When Levasseur took them to the Select Board, discussion was mainly about the reduction of the four-year term to a three-year term. If the RPC wants to reduce terms to three years, it should happen soon
- Boles' and Gravel's terms expire in 2012 – the change would have to be 2011
- There would be a year with no one appointed unless there was a vacancy to be filled
- Select Board wants a list of exactly when it would work out best to change appointments to a three-year term

2) Select Board – Town Plan

- They might want to be invited to an upcoming meeting – the next scheduled RPC meeting is December 22, 2008

- Levasseur wants to plan ahead to invite the Select Board to meet with the RPC at the first scheduled meeting in January
- January 12, 2009 would be the first RPC meeting of the new year
- Beguin stated that the Select Board did not know what to do with the Town Plan → no note was given with the copies and no instructions to Select Board
- Select Board will be invited to the January 12, 2009 meeting to discuss the draft – instructions will be given alongside the invitation to attend the RPC meeting
- “Shoulds” and “shalls” are still in gray
- Brandau will be out of town for two months
- Brandau moved to skip the December 22, 2008 meeting and not meet until January 12, 2009. Beguin seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
- Brandau suggested other representatives from boards in town should be invited (such as School Board, Conservation Board, etc.) → RPC feels that School Board and Conservation Board would be appropriate
- RPC will ask if the Select Board received draft Town Plan of December 4 (which has instructions on it, so there would be no need to send additional instructions) → Beguin asked about the timeline for Select Board approval of the Town Plan and when the Bylaws discussion would resume. Levasseur suggested a step by step approach
- Bylaws discussion may cause further revisions to the Town Plan

3) Letter from David Drakes

- Soils Matrix accompanied the letter analyzing the land – attempts to show that the prime agricultural soils on the site aren’t really prime agricultural soils (as defined by Act 250)
- Times and Seasons project
- Brendan O’Shea produced a report (from the Vermont Department of Agriculture)

4) Project Applications and Review Sheets

- Larry Davis (driveway) – subdivision on Harlow Road. Application is a “for your information” for the RPC. Unknown if it is for the same house attached to the driveway permit
- Brad and Jamie Stryker – No issue (no Act 250 impact)
- Ray and Dora Collins – Happy Hollow Road. Subdivision application for a three-bedroom single family home on a two-acre lot (a tree fell on their old house, requiring the construction of a new home)
- Permit for Wastewater/potable water from driveway approved off of Russo Road

Judge stated that it would be important to discuss the Bylaws with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Beguin seconded this idea. Discussion ensued.

5. Next Meeting

The next RPC meeting will be held on January 12, 2009.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Beguin moved to adjourn. Judge seconded. All in favor of adjourning. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kira S. Bryers

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