

Minutes of the  
Regular Monthly Meeting of the  
West Fairlee Planning Commission ("PC")  
May 9, 2016

Members Present: John Benjamin, Chair, Al Pfeiffer, Vice Chair, Tom Baccei, Peggy Burden, Samantha (Sam) Petrone and Christine Aquino, Clerk

Others Present: Christopher Sargent, Senior Planner, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission ("TRORC") and Andy Petersen

Welcome

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. He introduced Chris Sargent and welcomed Andy Petersen.

Public Comment

Andy Petersen said that he previously served on West Fairlee's PC when the 2012 Town Plan was written and that he would agree to serve again if appointed by the Selectboard. Al will submit his name to the Selectboard.

Minutes

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the Annual Organization Meeting held on April 25, 2016.

TRORC

Mr. Sargent gave an overview of TRORC, which he said is one of eleven regional planning commissions created by the State. He said that TRORC represents thirty member towns including West Fairlee. He discussed the organization, structure, staffing and budget. He discussed the process, procedures and assistance from TRORC to planning commissions to assist them in reviewing and updating their town plans. He distributed copies of Module 1: The Municipal Plan, Planning Manual, January 2016; Trainings for Municipal Officers; and TRORC Enhanced consultation: Town of West Fairlee, 2012.

He discussed the process and timetable for applying for a Municipal Planning Grant ("MPG"), which would help defray some of the cost of updating the Town Plan with TRORC's assistance. He talked about areas of current, general concern when reviewing and updating plans and mentioned that an enhanced flood resiliency section should be included in an updated Town Plan.

Mr. Sargent discussed the State's emphasis on energy efficiency and sustainability as part of its long range plans. He discussed various plans for solar arrays throughout the State and described degrees of community support and resistance. He offered suggestions relating to the energy section of an updated Town Plan.

He responded to comments and questions about revising the 2012 Town Plan. He then provided an overview of the Hull proposal to build a community of up to 20,000 inhabitants in the towns of Strafford, Sharon, Tunbridge and Royalton. Mr. Sargent suggested that the Town at least consider the impacts over time if such a development should become a reality. Members thanked Mr. Sargent and he left the meeting.

### Other Topics

Tom reported on his attendance to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Energy Committee Roundtable on May 3<sup>rd</sup> sponsored by Vital Communities. He said that the reports given by various town energy committees were interesting and inspiring. He has attempted some outreach in the community to determine if there is sufficient interest to form an energy committee.

Peggy reported on her investigation as to whether the West Fairlee Community Club building could be available as an alternative meeting space during the warm weather months. She will follow-up at the next meeting.

John polled members about the best day of the week and time of day to meet. Most felt that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. would work best. This was established as the date and time for regular monthly meetings.

Chris will check with former PC Chair, Skip Brown, to determine if a West Fairlee Planning Commission website remains in existence.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Chris Aquino  
Clerk