Minutes

Meeting of the Middlesex Planning Commission
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
6:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, VT 05602

This meeting was conducted in-person at the Town Clerk's Office and remotely using the town's Zoom account.

Planning Commission Members
Nicole D'Agostino (arrived at 6:16)
Jon Leibowitz -- absent
Sandy Levine
Elle O'Casey
Mitch Osiecki

Grace Smith, resident

Call to Order
Chair Sandy Levine called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Roll Call
Planning Commission members Sandy Levine, Elle O'Casey, and Mitch Osiecki were present. Nicole D'Agostino joined the meeting at 6:16. Jon Leibowitz was absent.

Also attending was Middlesex resident Grace Smith.

Mitch attended from the Town Clerk's office; all others participated via Zoom.

Adjustments to Agenda
No adjustments to the agenda.

Minutes
Motion: Sandy moved to approve draft minutes of the December 20; Elle seconded.
Mitch noted that he has edited the draft minutes to correct the date of the December meeting.
Vote to approve: 3-0. (Nicole had not yet joined the meeting.)

Old Business:

Bear Education

Elle will follow up with Jon to confirm community partners interested in participating in our bear education outreach event in March. We will finalize plans for this event at our February meeting.

Worcester Range Management Plan

Jon and Nicole collaborated on a PC response to the state's draft management plan, which is now open to public comment.

Sandy has made a few suggestions to the draft response. Upon discussion, the PC has agreed on two final tweaks:

- We will emphasize broad community support for the protection of large, undeveloped forests.
- We will also encourage the state to protect the Middlesex lands of the Worcester Range as an Ecological Preserve in accordance with ACT 59 and the goals of Vermont Conservation Design.

Motion: Mitch moved to authorize Sandy to submit the draft response, with the two edits described above, to the state on behalf of the Middlesex Planning Commission. Nicole seconded.
Vote to approve: 4-0.

Neighborhood Infill Housing Discussion.

Nicole has Zoom call scheduled on Jan 25 with the design consultants who led our October community discussion on infill housing to discuss the suitability of her property for an ADU.

Nicole and Sandy will attend the Zoom call. Their attendance will not be a Planning Commission meeting, as there will not be a quorum of members present.

Walking Trails near Rumney.

At our February meeting, the Planning Commission will host an informal discussion for anyone interested in discussing issues related to bicycle and pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Rumney school.

Dayton Crites has offered some suggestions of ways to "rough in" a potential trail. Among ideas we might explore: renting a flashing speed signal light.

We will want to publicize this meeting in advance. Some ideas:

- Front Porch Forum posts.
- Postcard to households in the vicinity of the school.
- Notice in Rumney newsletter.

Mitch and Sandy will collaborate on publicity for this meeting.

Other Business

Project List Update

Sandy has updated several of the items on our Project List.

Shady Rill Pedestrian Safety.

Worcester Mountain Range Management Plan – PC response.

Middlesex version of "Bethel University"

Nicole is still interested in rekindling this event. She's reached out to organizers in Bethel, who have generously offered several tips.

Mitch will connect with Nicole to help her reach past volunteers.

Town Report

Motion: Mitch moved to approve Sandy's draft PC Town Report. Elle seconded.
Vote to approve: 4-0.

Correspondence

Sandy shared a link to a story on the Worcester Mountain Range Management Plan by Middlesex resident John Dillon that ran in a recent issue of The Bridge.

As mentioned earlier, Dayton Crites, formerly of DuBois & King, wrote to Sandy to share some ideas about trails and bicycle/pedestrian safety.

The City of Montpelier has shared a draft copy of updated Land Use Regulations and Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Next Meeting

Wed, Feb 21 – regular monthly meeting. 6:00pm (expect meeting will be hybrid once again – zoom or in-person at Town Hall).

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitch Osiecki
Planning Commission secretary