

**Southern Windsor County
Regional Planning Commission**

Minutes of Monday, January 29, 2018
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

Commissioners Present: Tom Bock, Chester; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Joe Wilson, Springfield; Walter Martone (Alt.), Springfield; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Logan Nicoll, Ludlow.

Staff Present: Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Cynthia Porter, Chris Titus, Chris Yurek.

Others Present: Marie Caduto, VT DEC.

Public Hearing

Tom Bock opened the Public Hearing at 12:20 PM. The purpose of the hearing is to get input on whether to approve the Cavendish Town Plan and to confirm the local planning process under 24 V.S.A. §4350. Jason Rasmussen presented background information about the Cavendish Town Plan and the local preparation and adoption process. There were no members of the public in attendance and no comments were received before or during this hearing.

Kathy Rondeau made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Joe Wilson. Motion passed.

Regular Meeting

Tom Bock opened the meeting at 12:30 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
 - a. Agenda item numbers 5, 6 and 7 were moved to the beginning of the agenda.
2. Approve Cavendish Town Plan and Confirm Planning Process under 24 V.S.A. §4350
 - a. Jason Rasmussen reported that the Town Plan Review Committee met last Friday to review the Cavendish Town Plan and the Town's planning process. Peter Daniels and Norm Vanasse participated in that review. The Cavendish Selectboard held their final public hearing last week. Village Center designation expires in February 2018. The Committee found that the Plan addresses the statutory requirements and does not conflict with the Regional Plan or other town plans. Jason reported for the Committee that, due to the extenuating circumstances, they recommend adoption and confirmation.
 - b. *Tom Kenyon made a motion to approve the Cavendish Town Plan and confirm the planning process of the Town of Cavendish under 24 V.S.A. §4350, as recommended by the Town Plan Review Committee. Second by Joe Wilson. Motion passed.*
3. Discussion of Draft Tactical Basin Plan for the Black/Ottawquechee River Watershed

- a. Marie Caduto, Watershed Coordinator for the VT DEC, gave a presentation on the draft Tactical Basin Plan for the watershed that encompasses the Black River, Ottauquechee River and Mill Brook (i.e. "Basin 10"). The Plan indicates the current health of the watershed and identifies specific steps to achieve the State's water quality goals. Many of the specific desired projects are listed on the Watershed Projects Database.
 - b. Tom Kennedy presented the draft letter that summarizes RPC comments on the Basin 10 Plan. The letter was passed out and reviewed at this meeting. Marie noted that comments are due by Feb. 16th.
 - c. *Joe Fromberger made a motion authorizing the Executive Director and Board Chair to sign and submit the letter detailing the SWCRPC's comments on the draft Basin 10 Tactical Basin Plan. Second by Etienne Ting. Motion passed.*
4. Preferred Site and Section 248 Updates
- a. Jason Rasmussen reported that two 500 kW solar projects are being proposed in Springfield; one off of Craigue Hill Road and the other one in a portion of the Highway Department's old gravel pit. There was a meeting last week of the Springfield Selectboard, Planning Commission and Energy Committee as well as the SWCRPC Permit Review Committee. Both applicants were in attendance to present the details and discuss why they wanted preferred site status. The Town Planning Commission will review a draft letter at their next meeting, and the Selectboard after that. If both the Planning Commission and Selectboard sign off on the so-called "joint letter", the SWCRPC will consider signing onto the letter at the February meeting.
 - b. Tom Kennedy mentioned that having siting criteria in a town plan is not enough to meet the preferred site criteria under the Net-Metering Rules. To do so, a plan would need to have clearly identified specific sites identified, ideally on a map. Without having specific sites identified in the plan, this joint letter approach - like the one we followed recently in Windsor and are now following in Springfield - would be required for each applicable project. The Board asked for future clarification on what is expected of town plans with respect to preferred sites.
5. Legislative Updates
- a. Tom Kennedy reported that the Legislature appears to be moving toward the establishment of a Clean Water Fund Authority to oversee the expenditure of water quality funding in the State of Vermont. The bill includes a per-parcel fee, to be collected by municipalities and then sent to the Clean Water Fund Authority. Targeted annual expenditures of \$22 million are envisioned, but not certain due to the Governor's opposition.
6. Secretary's Report
- a. *Tom Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2017 meeting as corrected. Second by Logan Nicoll. Motion passed.*
7. Treasurer's Report

- a. *Tom Marsh made a motion to accept the December 2017 Treasurer's Report. Second by Joe Wilson. Motion passed.*
 - b. *Tom Kenyon made a motion to accept the FY 2017 financial audit report. Second by Logan Nicoll. Motion passed.*
8. Old Business
- a. Tom Kennedy indicated that, in the audit report, there were a number of recommended policies for the RPC to consider approving. As such, it would be helpful to have a committee or a couple of volunteers to help review and refine the policies. Walter Martone and Kathy Rondeau volunteered.
 - b. Wayne Wheelock asked about the Municipal Roads General Permit comments. Tom Kennedy reported that they are changing the annual fee and a few other changes. The rollout of the revised rules will likely be slightly delayed.
9. Adjourn
- a. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to adjourn. Second by Tom Kenyon. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Rasmussen