

Town of Danville Planning Commission

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Danville Town Hall 7:30pm

In Attendance: Jeff Paquet, Vince Foy, Jill Kelleher, Kate Whitehead, Jim Ashley

Guest: Alison Low

Jeff opened the meeting at 7:30pm

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Jeff Paquet to approve the minutes of October, motion seconded by Vince Foy. Motion carried.

ATV Ordinance

The new ATV ordinance was adopted regulating the time, manner and location of ATVs in the Town. Residents will now be required to purchase a sticker/town decal to operate ATVs on approved roads. The full document can be accessed on the Town's website: <http://www.danvillevermont.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Town-of-Danville-ATV-Ordinance-Adopted-November-3-2016.pdf>

Better Connections Grant

The PC has been discussing applying for funds through the Better Connections program. Better Connections is a planning grant that aims to "increase transportation options, build resilience, and strengthen economic vitality in Vermont communities". Municipalities can apply for up to \$67,500 to develop an implementation plan for bike/ped improvements (i.e. Activity Center Plans, Multi-modal linkage Plan). For more info: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>. Eligibility requirements include regional approval and confirmation. Alison looked into the process to have the plan adopted and confirmed at NVDA's Board Meeting on December 8th. As part of this process a Town Plan Element Review was completed to assure that all of the required elements had been included, that the plan aligns with state planning goals and that it is consistent with other plans in the region. Alison reported back that the Flood Resilience Draft would need to be incorporated into the final plan in order to receive regional approval and meet eligibility guidelines for the grant. This inclusion would require an additional adoption/public hearing by the Planning Commission before moving forward with the adoption process by the SB. Based on this we will not be applying through Better Connections in FY17. It was decided to work over the winter to prepare/define our scope of work related to transportation connectivity with the goal of applying for the grant in the next round of RFPs.

Town Plan

Discussed including the Flood Resilience Element. Alison also suggested other additional language to be added based on the staff review of the Town Plan. Recommendations included incorporating data into the housing element that speaks to the rising trend in non-family households and the rise in # of people who live alone. We discussed potential implications of this trend, the growing share of people over 65/aging in place, the need for senior housing, services. Other suggested additions are including earth

extraction language/provisions in the Land Use Section. The town of Sutton was mentioned as an example of a municipality that adopted local regulations to address siting (i.e. gravel pits and impacts to residential properties). The NVDA Regional Plan addresses this as well and can be used as an example. We also discussed solar siting/Act 147 - seeking substantial deference and the need for additional language in the future. Alison reported that Town Plans are now updated every 8 years vs. every 5 years. This will open up more time to focus on and implement municipal projects. Alison reviewed the adoption process; once the draft with changes is finalized a reporting form will need to be completed together with a cover sheet of the amendments/changes.

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7:30pm at the Town Office.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully Submitted by Kate Whitehead