

BETHEL PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes: Public Hearing of 07/23/14

Page 1 of 2

PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Amendments to the Bethel Town Plan

Called to order at 7:00 pm.

Attending: Benson, Eric; Delaney, Andrew; Dieffenbach, Fred; Dohrn, Peter; Fago, John; Floyd, Mary; Griffin, Ele; Hall, Bill; Hill, Lisa; Hinkle, Lucien; Hodgdon, Carla; Russell, Carl; Sargent, Chris; Warhol, Tom; Washburn, Cecil.

Planning Commission Chair Andrew Delaney opened the floor to comments and/or questions from attendees. Draft documents of the Town Plan have been available for review and the Commission had no ‘prepared’ preface to entertaining public input. Numerous individuals praised the general content, effort, and amount of thought that went into the proposed amendments.

Specific questions and comments were as follows [paraphrased]:

1. [E. Griffin] A Village Designation Program is mentioned on page 16. What is this? This was explained.
2. [L. Hill] On page 30, Belcher Public Library titles the library segment. This needs to be changed to Bethel Public Library.
3. [M. Foyd] A number of abbreviations and acronyms are used. A glossary should be added as a reference for figuring these out.
4. [E. Griffin] Capital budgeting is mentioned several times. What is this? This was explained.
5. [L. Hinkle] Why is capital budgeting necessary? This was explained.
6. [L. Hill] On page 48, measurement changes from feet (referencing wind towers for home use) to meters (chart depicting potential wind development areas in Bethel).
7. [E. Griffin] On page 79, What properties are ‘within close proximity... makes the possibility of linking’? Several lots have become property of the Town through the FEMA buyout program.
8. [M. Floyd] The Conservation Commission is holding a Public Forum on Thursday, August 7th at 6 PM to discuss options for utilization of the FEMA buyout properties.
9. [L. Hinkle] Lots of ‘things’ are referenced, which could and would translate to lots of \$\$.
Explanation: These proposed amendments to the Bethel Town Plan are not ‘set-in-stone’ expectations. They are recommendations.
10. [L. Hill] Comment regarding cemeteries [Sorry- was out of room while this was mentioned.]
11. [E. Benson] On page 38, the Fire Station is referenced as built in the 1980’s: this is incorrect- it was in the 1990’s. On page 39, Troop ‘E’ of the Vermont State Police are described as ‘immediately’ south of the Bethel/Royalton Town Line: it is at least ½ mile to the barracks, so ‘immediately’ is not appropriate.
12. [L. Hinkle] Map 4 of 5, Transportation, indicates TH125 crossing his property: He was not aware of this. This was explained.
13. [T. Warhol] On pages 60 & 61, a setback range of 35-50 feet from designated waterways is included, rather than the 35 foot distance recommended by the Conservation Commission. This was explained.
14. [E. Benson] Commented in favor of the hamlet concept.
15. [M. Floyd] Asked the frequency of updating the Town Plan, as the Conservation Commission is responsible for implementation of numerous recommendations. This was explained.

16. [C. Russell] Questioned oversight for assuring that implementation is addressed. It was agreed that a collaborative effort of the Selectboard, Planning Commission, and other appropriate municipal panels would periodically revisit Town Plan Recommendations for Action.

There being no additional questions or comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Distributed: 07/25/14.
Approved: 08/13/14.