

BETHEL PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes: Meeting of 04/16/14

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Attending: Andrew Delaney (Chair); Fred Diefenbach; Peter Dohrn; Mary Floyd (Chair, Conservation Commission); Carla Hodgdon; Chris Sargent (TRORC); Cecil Washburn.

1. **Call to Order:** 7:10 PM.
2. **Review / Revise Agenda:** No changes to *draft* distributed 04/10/14.
3. **Minutes of 02/19/14 meeting:** No changes to *draft* distributed 02/25/14.
4. **Correspondence:** (a) Clarification of TRORC procedure for Act 250 Involvement-no actual change, just restatement – file; (b) Copy, proposed Regional Plan amendments and dates of public hearings in Fairlee and Bethel [March 30th at Town Office conference room] – available for anyone planning to attend; (c) Invitation extended from Conservation Commission for presentation by Windsor County Forester on our Town forest at 6:30 PM on May 13th in the Town Office conference room.
5. **Discussion Proposed Amendments to Town Plan:** The bulk of *Natural Resources* Chapter reviewed, discussed, revised. Given the evening hour, the balance of this chapter, *Education*, and revised Zoning maps postponed until May meetings.
6. **OTHER:**
 - (a) **Discussion Town Manager as Zoning Administrator:** There is no question of Keith Arlund’s ability to do well in this role. However, concerns continue about the possibility of a conflict-of-interest arising, ‘best practice’ for residents, and the need for better oversight once permits have been issued. Few townships the size of Bethel have as large a Town Manager’s office: there could perhaps be municipal savings (i.e. fewer salaried employees) if some responsibilities were delegated [as with the recent Interim Zoning Administrator], which did not include cost to Town residents for benefits, etc.
 - (b) **Opportunity offered by Redstart Inc, re: [Bethel] stream geomorphic assessment:** The priority for the Planning Commission at present is completion of Town Plan amendments. Mary Floyd shared that the Conservation Commission will be holding a public forum at some point, and that a presentation by Redstart, Inc, will be a part of that forum – Planning Commission members will plan to attend this opportunity.
 - (c) **Complimentary copy, Land Use Chapter of VT Statutes, from Peter Gregory / TRORC:** Accepted with sincere Thanks and appreciation. It was suggested that it be ‘housed’ at the Town Office – Carla Hodgdon will arrange this, as well as offer use of it to Town residents and employees.
7. **Next Meeting / Agenda Items:**

Wednesdays: **MAY 7th –and- MAY 21st** [7:00 PM at the Bethel Town Office]

May 7th [Andrew Delaney will coordinate provision of proper public notice with the Town Office.]
Complete Natural Resources, Education amendments
Review Zoning maps

May 21st Finalize draft of proposed amendments.
8. **Adjourn:** 9:10 PM.

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