

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Town Plan Review Committee

Approved Minutes

June 13, 2019 at 5:00pm

Steele Community Room at the Waterbury Municipal Center
28 North Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont.

Committee Members:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Arrand, Worcester
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee Cattaneo, Orange Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ron Krauth, Middlesex Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Moretown Alternate Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Calais Alternate Commissioner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nussli, Berlin Alternate Commissioner (Alternate Seat)

Waterbury Representatives: Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury Community Planner.

Members of the public: Stewart Clark, Worcester PC; John Brabant, CVRPC Calais Rep

Staff: Clare Rock

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Bill Arrand, Chair, at 5:04 pm

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING: ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE

B Arrand opened the hearing and outlined the purpose of the hearing was to hold a second hearing to ensure adequate opportunity for public comments was provided on the 2018 Waterbury Energy Plan, as contained within the Waterbury Municipal Plan, adopted December 3, 2018.

S Clark presents his comments both verbally and in writing (see attached document titled "Abstract of Challenge to WMEPLAN 6-13 SFC.) S Clark argues that the Shutesville Hill wildlife corridor is a known regional and local constraint and should be depicted as such within the Regional Energy Plan and within the Waterbury Energy Plan. S Clark also argues that the methodology of the Known Constraints map is flawed and should also be corrected. S Clark requests the plan not be approved until these changes are made.

J Brabant shared his experience in the PUC process and wants to ensure Waterbury understands the ramifications of not elevating the Shuteville Corridor as a known constraint. If the area was defined as a known constraint this would make it clear that Waterbury doesn't want renewable energy development in the wildlife corridor. Once the wildlife corridor is developed it will have an irreversible impact on the wildlife.

S Lotspeich reiterated the municipality's position on Shuteville Hill. Other areas of the town plan recognize the wildlife corridor and the plan does allow for some residential development in this area of

town. The Planning Commission discussed identification of the corridor in the plan and felt it was not appropriate at this time to delineate the boundaries of the area. The plan directs the local Conservation Commission to work with landowners to secure conservation easements in the areas and also directs the CC to undertake further mapping a delineation of the this area for future planning considerations. S Lotpeich was opposed to making any changes to the energy plan as this pose conflicts with other areas of the municipal plan.

Discussion followed about the wildlife corridor, known and possible constraints and the maps. A brief conversation followed about how the RPC hearing and approval process comes at the wrong time in the process and that these types of discussions which are happening during the Waterbury RPC approval process would have been better suited before the Town had already adopted their local plan. It was pointed out the by Statute municipalities can request approval by the RPC once the local legislative body has adopted the plan.

J Manchester made a motion to close the hearing at 6:20 pm seconded by R Krauth, all in favor. Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CVRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE

The committee discussed its role and the staff recommendation. The committee expressed the need to better identify the Shutesville Hill wildlife corridor but recognizes that the regional plan (including the energy plan) did not recognize this area as a known constraint and the town choose not to identify the area as a known constraint. The local energy plan meets the required standards and is in conformance with the regional plan. Committee members expressed an interest in highlighting this before the CVRPC Board of Commissioners when the TPRC recommendation is presented for Board approval on July 9. Specifically the following points should be presented: That Shutesville Hill is not being protected as well as it probably should be and that the energy plans maps do not depict the areas of constraints as described within the text methodology.

Motion by R Krauth to recommend to the CVRPC Board the issuance of energy determination, seconded by J Manchester, all in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes from the March 27, 2019 and April 25, 2019 Town Plan Review Committee were reviews.

J Ohlsson made a motion to approve the March 27, 2019 minutes, seconded by J Manchester, all in favor. Motion carried.

J Manchester made a motion to approve the April 25, 2019 minutes, seconded by R Krauth, all in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

R Krauth made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm, seconded by J Ohlsson, all in favor. Motion carried.