

ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION 1/18/2024 Meeting Minutes

PC Present: Chair, Deborah Wright; Jana Bryan, John Dunbar, Dalila Hall, Jim Mullen, Taylor Pichette, Guy Payne; Staff Gary Fox,
Zoom: Planning Administrator, Halle

1. Call Meeting to Order -Wright called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Public Comment for items not on the agenda -None were taken
3. Agenda Review -Wright asked for any changes, none were needed
4. Approval of December 14, 2023, minutes. Hall moved to adopt the minutes as written, Pichette seconded, Date of meeting was **12.14.23** and Meeting **Minutes** and Not Agenda and last sentence cut, motion carried. Payne abstained from the vote, was not present at 12.14.23
5. Town Plan- Process, Review, Changes, Timeline- Halle made changes from Town Plan discussion of the Minutes from February 2023, requested examples:
 - A) SR Village. There is more than 1 private water system, but no municipal water system serving the Village. Examples of two lots in same Town with different regulations, commercial properties with late night noise/mechanic and auto repair non-compliant.
 - B) Land Regulations- key challenge- leave comments- but remove “out-of-staters”, add subdivision language “These regulations should evolve toward a more flexible performance based model that protects...” (Page 8- Mullen’s updates) Consider Springfield’s Working Lands zoning district for farmland.
 - C) Repetitive comment- Land Use Objectives -PC agreed it reinforces and summarizes chapter
 - D) Addition of SR sidewalk streets, unevenness on sidewalks, accepted.
 - E) Culverts- Beaver deceiver construction- yes continued use of them, PC agreed it was not necessary to add in Town Plan.
6. Maps Updates-

Educational Facilities and Recreational Resources. Agreed to NOT include home-based childcare. Passive/Active recreation resources were discussed, Riverfront Park vs. Oak Hill. Also adding: Hetty Green, SR Park, Fireman’s Memorial. Remove YMCA. Label CT River scenic, add Canal history. Note: Pocket park on Canal St. will be removed 2026 for the pedestrian bridge, and a pause place added on either side of the canal where the current Depot St. bridge is located.

Check the numbers on map/inset labeled correctly. Change farms “Stickney” to “Farm Area”.

Public Owned, Public Lease- 3 parcels outside of TOR: Town Forest in Grafton (37), BF19 Oak Hill Cemetery, and the old BF Dump in Westminster.

Energy Resources- Question on gas stations: Intention to show where active/inactive tanks that need remediation, and if those should be on the map.

Utilities Map- water (updated in 2022), sewer and Fiber. Ask about addition of text 'meets the standard coverage'.

7. Masterplan Discussion - Halle proposed TOR engage in a Master Plan- visionary, long-term, regional focus on future growth. The last one was for Bellows Falls in 1984. The agreement was that the Take Action Rockingham VCRD Community visit 2019-2020 was a good starting point.
8. Other Business- Gary and Halle to define next meeting action steps, and schedule the next 3 meetings: (2/15)Bylaw sub-committee, map updates, preferred site and Photos. Compare examples from Springfield, Putney, Chester.
9. Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 3rd Floor Conference Room-The Board agreed on additional meetings to finish the Town Plan: Thursday, February 1, 15, 29th
10. Adjourn -Payne moved to adjourn at 8:54 p.m., Dunbar seconded, motion carried.

Recording Clerk

Betsy Thurston