

Town of Wallingford, VT
Planning Commission (PC) Meeting Minutes
May 17 2017
Town Office, 75 School St.

Members Present: Erika Berner (Chair), Jill Burkett, Kevin Mullin, Michael McMahon (Acting Clerk). Members Absent: Ralph Lovino, Jeffrey Biasuzzi Zoning Administrator (Alternate), Carol Ann Martin

Others Present: Elysa Smigielski (Planner, Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC)) and Tina Van Guilder (Rutland Area Prevention Coalition)

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Review of the Agenda: K. Mullin made a motion to approve the agenda that was second by M. McMahon. The motion carried (4-0).

Election of Clerk: J. Burkett made a motion to nominate J. Biasuzzi that was second by K. Mullin. The motion carried (4-0).

Review of Minutes: K. Mullin made a motion to approve Minutes of the Planning Committee on April 13, 2017 that was second by J. Burkett. The motion carried (3-0).

Presentation by Tina Van Guilder: T. Van Guilder from the Rutland Area Prevention Coalition talked about content neutral advertising and what towns can do to reduce the amount of advertising signage available for all, especially children. Wallingford came to her attention because of a study conducted a few years ago that showed Wallingford had a high percentage of our tobacco retailers within 1000 feet of the elementary school. This is not surprising since we are a small town with our school centrally located within the community. She also discussed the Survey by the Department of Health conducted in 2015 that showed that in Mill River a goodly number of students used or experimented with tobacco products within 30 days of the survey and that advertising played a significant role in their decisions to use tobacco products.

Her main point was to make the Planning Commission aware that the commission can have an impact on the amount of content neutral advertising used and should consider these matters as we develop our Town Plan and Zoning Regulations. Wallingford currently has a 25% window coverage regulation. This percentage could be lowered, for example to 20%, and a campus advertising limit could be implemented. That is, the amount of advertising used in a retail site could be limited to a percentage of the total retail area (campus).

Discussion of Community Dinner and Results of the Town Survey:

E. Smigielski, a Town Plan Specialist from RRPC, was introduced to the PC.

She gave an overview of the ongoing preparation for the Town Dinner:

- 1) She has made contact with local business for the preparation of food and drinks.

- 2) Post Cards have been mailed. (See attachment for the post card info).
- 3) Advertising Posters are being printed and should be available for distribution Saturday, May 20th.
- 4) Large Advertising Signs are being made and will go up around the first of June.

She also provided the results of the Town Survey. The significant findings were as follows:

Over the next 10 years the Town citizens would like:

- 1) A Hardware Store
- 2) A Bakery
- 3) A Coffee Shop
- 4) More Park and Recreation Activities
- 5) More Senior Services.

For a complete breakout of the survey results go to the attachment.

Finally E. Smigielski provided a word picture of significant words uses by people in the survey to describe Wallingford. The main words used were as follows:

Wallingford is a “Small Community of Quiet Friendly People”

The full picture is proved in the attachment.

Public Input; No input was received.

Other Business: E. Berner reminded PC members if they were interested in attending the VLCT Spring Planning and Zoning Forum they must inform J. Biasuzzi, the Zoning Admin, and Sandi Switzer, the Town Admin, before June 7, 2017.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission was scheduled for June 12, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the Rotary Building.

K Mullins moved to end the meeting. M. McMahon seconded, all approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Michael McMahon, acting clerk

Approved: 08/14/17