



Town of Mount Holly Planning Commission

Town Office & Remote Electronic – Special Work Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 2, 2022

7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Schulz (Secretary), Andrew Seward, Brigid Sullivan

Commission Members Absent: none

Also Present: Renee Sarmiento (Clerk), Stephen Michel, Fra Devine (Conservation Comm.)

1. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. No changes to agenda.
3. Town Plan Revisions
 - a. Utilities & Facilities followup
 - i. No responses to our letters to Fire, Rescue, and Library yet.
 - ii. No response from Emergency Management Director
 - iii. Made preliminary contact with Green Mountain Power, VTel, and Comcast and hopeful they will provide us some information.
 - iv. Will try to call Library to chat
 - v. Hope to meet soon with Clinton Woolley, Road Foreman and Solid Waste Coordinator, to hear his thoughts.
 - vi. Commissioners have questions about transfer station: status and future of storage building, presence of potty for employees, whether there is a local market for food waste composting, and whether recycling will remain zero-sort and free.
 - b. Transportation Plan
 - i. Reviewed our work plan and elements required by statute. Reviewed our current plan and compared to Shrewsbury plan. Feeling that the Shrewsbury plan may be more robust.
 - ii. Discussion of “trails” as transportation versus recreation.
 - iii. Discussion of scenic trails versus roads. Agreement among Commissioners that scenic roads should be treated differently from trails.
 - iv. Fra Devine offered for the Conservation Commission to prepare a draft inventory of scenic roads. The offer was appreciated and accepted.
 - v. Discussion about problems with shared use of our roads for foot, bike, and horse travel.
 - vi. Will need to investigate stock / horse trails in National Forest and State Forest.
 - vii. Discussion of transportation alternatives to autos such as bus and train. Will investigate expanding bus service. Will investigate train as recreational, economic opportunity. Chair suggested that the leaf peeper trains that come daily in the fall to our town and immediately turn around and leave is a huge missed opportunity for the town. If we had a station with a store attached it could be an opportunity for selling local goods. Discussion of a light rail to

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Rutland. Parking could be a challenge. Vail may also be interested in a train from Rutland station or the airport.

- viii. Discussion of dangers of rail crossings and dangerous freight.
 - ix. Discussion of trying to find out how many people don't have access to car travel
 - x. Will continue to reach out mostly by phone to people in our knowledgeable parties list and compile list of questions for each at the next working meeting.
4. Public Comments:
- a. Brigid shared copies of the Federation of Lakes and Ponds newsletter
 - b. Fra Devine update from Conservation Commission
 - i. Annette Lynch has stepped down as chair. Phil Crane and Fra Devine are interim co-chairs.
 - ii. Fra asked if Commission has any priority requests for what the Conservation Commission should be working on. Chair suggested that a scenic roads inventory would be most immediately useful.
 - iii. Discussion about policy regarding new town roads. Andrew felt that we should balance benefits of new roads to the town versus the cost and adverse environmental impact. Fra felt that there should be a more robust process and policy for approving new roads.
 - iv. Fra requested digital map files for Arrowwood Inventory. Chair will send to Fra and RRPC.
 - c. Chair shared an article published in the Vermont Journal describing Lisa Kelley, realtor, talk at Ludlow Rotary in which she described some of the challenges facing Mount Holly due to the huge real estate demand. <https://vermontjournal.com/business/ludlow-rotary-hears-update-on-real-estate-market/>
5. Upcoming meetings
- a. Regular meeting – February 16th, 7:00 pm (3rd Wednesday)
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

For the Commission,
Jon McCann, Chair

In draft form until approved on February 16th, 2022