



Town of Mount Holly Planning Commission

Town Office & Remote Electronic – Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 1, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Seward,
Also Present: Renee Sarmento (Clerk)
Absent: Andrew Schulz, Brigid Sullivan

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. Changes to agenda: None
3. Town Plan
 - a. Land Use Plan
 - i. Chair spoke about looking at neighboring towns and seeing what would make sense to include in our town plan.
 - ii. Chair created a Town Plan document outline based on the statute requirements. Chair suggested going through sections and highlighting things interested in.
 - iii. Chair stated it would make sense to have a tally of the number of acres of public land. It might make sense to make a table.
 - iv. Lengthy discussion about the state definition of agriculture. Commissioner A. Seward read aloud: Using Agricultural lands identification process. Chair asked Commissioner A. Seward to look into the agricultural guidelines.
 - v. Commissioner J. Seward where sugaring belongs. He feels it should be under agriculture because it is a product. Commissioners discussed sugaring and if it belongs under agriculture or forestry.
 - vi. What qualifies as a farm? How big is considered a farm? Commissioner A. Seward found definition of a farm in the document "VERMONT REQUIRED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES RULE FOR THE AGRICULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM". Commissioners discussed a list of farms in Mount Holly and what products they produce.
 - vii. Discussion of solar panels on prime ag land and why it requires an enhanced energy plan to have any say in the matter.
 - viii. Discussion about public/semi-public land.
 - ix. Discussion about open spaces.
 - x. Discussion of industry vs commerce.
 - xi. Discussion of recreation plan.
 - xii. Commissioner A. Seward is going to look more into the agriculture/forestry question.
4. Public Comments: none
5. Upcoming meetings
 - a. Regular meeting - February 15th at 7:00 pm (3rd Wednesday)
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

For the Commission,
Renee Sarmento, Planning Commission Clerk.

In draft form until approved on February 15, 2023