

MUNICIPAL PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
January 29, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Commission: Rowena Brown, Gerry Carton (call in), and Amanda Cronin (call in).

Staff: Taylor Newton

Public: See attached sign-in sheet.

The Municipal Plan Review Committee held a meeting at the NRPC's Office at 75 Fairfield Street in St. Albans Vermont on January 29, 2018. The meeting was opened by R. Brown at 5:35 PM.

Additions and Deletions

R. Brown asked to add the election of officers after additions and deletions.

T. Newton stated that he wanted to move the public hearing for the Highgate Determination of Energy Compliance and subsequent committee discussion to after the approval of minutes.

T. Newton stated that that he wanted to separate the public hearings for Richford regional approval and determination of energy compliance to clarify that they are two different processes under different parts of statute.

The Committee agreed to the proposed changes.

Election of Officers

G. Carton stated that he would run for vice chair. R. Brown stated that she would run for chair. The Committee decided to vote on the proposed slate of officers.

Record of Vote: G. Carton – Aye, A. Cronin – Aye, R. Brown – Aye.

Approval of Minutes

G. Carton motioned to recommend the approval of the minutes from the September 29, 2017 meeting. Seconded by A. Cronin.

Record of Vote: G. Carton – Aye, A. Cronin – Aye, R. Brown – Aye.

Public Hearing – Highgate Determination of Energy Compliance

R. Brown opened the public hearing at 5:45 PM.

H. Britch-Valenta, the Highgate Town Administrator, stated that she hoped that the Highgate Town Plan would receive determination and explained the local adoption

process for the plan. She and B. Buermann discussed the hopes of the municipality to start a municipal energy committee.

The Committee reviewed Highgate's responses to the "Energy Planning Standards" checklist. The Committee verified that a few of the questions that had answers submitted, but not a "yes" checked where in fact affirmative answers. H. Britch-Valenta confirmed and noted that all such questions were "yes."

W. Irwin asked about the "template" plan provide to Highgate by NRPC and its usefulness to the Town in developing an enhanced energy plan. H. Britch-Valenta noted that the template provided the Highgate Planning Commission and Highgate Selectboard with a better understanding of the role of the enhanced energy plan and the requirements of statute. She then discussed the Town's frustration with the Certificate of Public Good (CPG) process and the Town's interest in having its Town Plan receive "substantial deference" in future CPG proceedings. The Committee then discussed the maps included in the Highgate Town Plan that were provided by NRPC.

R. Brown closed the public hearing at 6:06.

Committee Discussion – Highgate

G. Carton motioned to recommend that the Board of Commissioners find that the Highgate Town Plan meets the standards for determination of energy compliance and is in conformance with the Northwest Regional Plan. A. Cronin seconded.

Record of Vote: G. Carton – Aye, A. Cronin – Aye, R. Brown – Aye.

Public Hearing – Richford Regional Approval

R. Brown opened the public hearing at 6:08 PM.

T. Newton outlined Richford's efforts to adopt and new plan. He noted the focus on revising the implementation section of the plan to be more useful. He also noted the inclusion of the enhanced energy plan in the Richford Municipal Plan. He also noted several ways that the Town had been trying to implement its previous plan over the past five years including several brownfields-related projects, extension of the rail trail and several infrastructure related projects.

R. Brown closed the public hearing at 6:14 PM.

Committee Discussion – Richford Regional Approval

A. Cronin. motioned to recommend that the Board of Commissioners find that the Richford Municipal Plan be regionally approved. G. Carton seconded.

Record of Vote: G. Carton – Aye, A. Cronin – Aye, R. Brown – Aye.

G. Carton motioned to recommend that the Board of Commissioners confirm Richford's continuing planning process. A. Cronin seconded.

Record of Vote: G. Carton – Aye, A. Cronin – Aye, R. Brown – Aye.

Public Hearing – Richford Determination of Energy Compliance

R. Brown opened the public hearing at 6:17 PM.

The Committee discussed implementation of the Richford Municipal Plan Energy Chapter (which is the enhanced energy plan). The Committee also reviewed the energy planning standards checklist for municipal enhanced energy plans and found the answer on the checklist to be sufficient to meet the standards. The Committee discussed public input on the plan at a local level and how Richford's plan may be considered within a CPG proceeding for a renewable facility proposed in another municipality outside the Northwest Region.

R. Brown closed the public hearing at 6:28 PM.

Committee Discussion – Richford Determination of Energy Compliance

G. Carton motioned to recommend that the Board of Commissioners find that the Richford Municipal Plan meets the standards for determination of energy compliance and is in conformance with the Northwest Regional Plan. A. Cronin seconded.

Record of Vote: G. Carton – Aye, A. Cronin – Aye, R. Brown – Aye.

Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 6:34 PM.