

May 7, 2019 Minutes Rochester Planning Commission/ Town Plan Forum

Present: Dan McKinley, Julie Martin, David Curtis, Eric Bowman, Greg White, Joan Pontious, Zoning Administrator Doon Hinderyckx.

Guests: Tori Littlefield, Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission plus approximately 40 townspeople.

Call to Order: Dan called the meeting to order at 6PM.

New Business: All in attendance introduced themselves. Dan presented the meeting objectives of

- >affording the community an opportunity to review and provide input to the Draft Revised Town Plan;
- >exploring opportunities for community members to be involved with implementing policies and recommendations in the draft plan;
- >providing for future community participation in discussions and working groups.

Tori presented an overview of the purpose of a Town Plan (highlighting energy planning and providing guidance to zoning regulations and community investments) and Two Rivers role as consultant to the town.

Dan discussed energy issues, the State's energy goals relating to reduction in energy usage and increase in renewable energy resources.

Community members expressed concerns over siting and size of solar arrays(with general agreement that small rooftop installations are preferable to large commercial installations), conditions of roads and culverts.

Rachel Cunningham discussed actions other towns and states are taking to foster community and economic revitalization, including branding.

Vic Ribauda discussed issues about the effects of population decline on our economy, tax base and attractiveness to potential new residents and how to turn that decline around.

Annie McKay presented information on the contributions, extent and impact of the emerging Creative Economy and ways to expand and support it.

Other concerns expressed included how climate change will affect our winter economy, having community input on where energy installations can be located, keeping Rochester an affordable community, supporting outdoor recreational opportunities, including bike lanes on roads, focusing on prevention rather than reaction.

The group expressed a willingness to continue discussions and set June 11, 2019 as their next meeting date.

Other Business: the Board briefly discussed the Advanced Illuminations plan for a solar array and decided to reply to request for comments to the developer indicating our support as long as the siting is in compliance with our zoning regulations.

Minutes: Julie moved to accept minutes of last month's meeting. All in favor; so voted.

Adjourn: Julie moved to adjourn at 8:20 PM. All in favor, so voted. Next meeting Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Pontious, Secretary