

November 5, 2019 Minutes Rochester Planning Commission

Present: Dan McKinley, Sandy Haas, Julie Martin, Greg White, David Curtis, Eric Bowman, Joan Pontious, Administrative Officer Doon Hinderyckx.

Guest: Rachel Cunningham.

Call to Order: Dan called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

New Business/ Public Comment:

Doon discussed the Select Board's concerns regarding the adoption of a formal policy on Class 4 Roads and inquired about the Town Plan's position. Section A Chapter 7 of the Town Plan stated that Class 4 Roads are funded exclusively by the town to keep trails open for recreation and public use and they should be retained. The Select Board is considering a policy to allow changes to be made to Class 4 Roads, consider public input before allowing changes and may place conditions on such changes.

Hearing for updated Town Plan will be held on December 6, 2019; Rachel Cunningham proposed to add language to the Public Notice regarding allowance of written comments.

Rachel updated the Board on various recreational activities the Visioning Rochester group has been pursuing, including Winterfest, ice skating lessons, soliciting donations of helmets and skates.

Budget: We were turned down for funding to support revision of Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws, which is prompted by the changes in the Town Plan. We might wish to add money in our upcoming budget request to start these revisions.

In keeping with one of the recommendation in the Town Plan regarding controlling of invasive species, the Board discussed recommending the Select Board add funds for a second roadside mowing, to be conducted in the spring before the flowering of wild chervil in order to reduce its spread.

Administrative Officer: Doon presented the following application:

Laurence Jones, 1130 Rt 100 N., workshop. Approved.

Old Business:

Update on Huntington House noise issue: Select Board wrote a letter requesting that the Huntington House curtail noisy outdoor activities after 10 PM. Copies went to neighbors. There have been no complaints since.

Dan distributed copies of the Local Emergency Operations Plan.

AI solar array had a status conference at the Public Utilities Commission; there has been no activity since. Does the Commission have any oversight of setbacks for solar installations?

Minutes: Julie moved to accept the minutes. All in favor; so voted.

Adjourn: Greg moved to adjourn at 7:27 PM. All in favor; so voted. Next meeting Dec 3, 2019 at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Pontious, Secretary