

Approved March 16, 2016

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall
February 16, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Pelkey, Holly Noordsy, Jim Duclos, David Anderson, Jamie McKenna, Bobbie Carnwath, Jean Terwilliger

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Howlett

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Quorum – established

Meeting schedule – a quorum is expected for the March meeting.

AGENDA - Holly N. MOVED /Sarah P. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda with one addition - Rutland solar resolution in Old Business. Motion passed – 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES – January 20, 2016

Sarah P. MOVED /Jim D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed – 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

OLD BUSINESS

- Development Review Board (DRB) – update – Holly N. reported that she, along with Ben Wood and Magna Dodge from the Select Board and Barney Hodges from the Zoning Board of Adjustment, interviewed 3 well-qualified DRB candidates: Joe Severy, Bruce Byers, and Annie Wilson. The outcome of the meeting was that Bruce Byers is a candidate for a 3-year term, Annie Wilson and Joe Severy for 2-year terms, and Barney Hodges for the 1-year term. May 1, 2016 is the target date for starting. Meanwhile the candidates may attend DRB meetings in Middlebury as part of their training. The Select Board is still looking for another candidate for a 3-year term, and two

alternates. DRB appointments will be made by the Select Board when a full slate of candidates is determined.

- **Conservation Fund – update** – Dave Anderson passed out the final version of the Conservation Fund document, approved by the Select Board at their meeting on February 2. David will suggest to Mary Dodge that the CCC write an upbeat article about the Conservation Fund for the newsletter. The board discussed the role of the CPC in the review of applications. All agreed that the entire planning commission should review applications. David A. will convey this message to Mary Dodge.
- **Planning Commission vacancy** – no one is running for the open seat. The position will either be filled by the election of a write-in candidate or by appointment.
- **Discussion Zoning Update and 2016 Master Plan** – Sarah Pelkey passed out a master plan for tasks each month during 2016. She asked that members send her any additions to the Plan. The Plan is flexible, so public forums can be added as needed. Sarah P. suggested that a review of the Town Plan would be a good place to start in the Zoning Bylaws update. Bobbie C. asked about the value of looking at Town Plans of other towns and what could be learned. Sarah P. said that yes, looking at other towns Town Plans and Zoning Regulations would be useful as long as they have zoning issues similar to Cornwall.
- **Rutland Solar Resolution and request.** Planning commissions were also asked to support this resolution, in addition to Select Boards. The board discussed and concluded that the document seems dated, much has changed since it was written, and the language is vague. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conservation Commission Proposal: Community Values Workshop

Brian Howlett from the Cornwall Conservation Commission said that the CCC has been given the opportunity to sponsor a facilitated 2-hour community values workshop in Cornwall, led by Jens Hilke, a trained community organizer from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The purpose is to bring together the broadest group of citizens possible to talk about whatever is most important to them in

regards to the Town and its future, and to address the full range of concerns that citizens have. In order to be truly useful for the town, wide participation by all parts of the community is key – and that is the challenge – to get people out. A good portion of the workshop would be spent in small groups, of no more than 5 people plus a facilitator. Mr. Howlett requested that 2-3 members of the CPC be on the planning group and act as facilitators for the workshop. The board agreed that the workshop is a great idea. Next step, Mr. Howlett will tell Jens Hilke that there is enough interest to move forward. Holly N. suggested that a clear statement of how the outcome of the workshop will be used, will be important to have, in motivating wide participation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Appreciation for Sarah Pelkey – All members expressed their appreciation for the work of Sarah P. during her term as a Planning Commissioner and said she will be missed. In turn, Sarah praised the board members talents and good work. She said she would like to be of assistance to the CPC, when she can.

Jim D. MOVED/Sarah P. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed – 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the CPC