

Approved December 21, 2016

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Fire Department, Route 30
November 16, 2016,

MEMBERS PRESENT: Holly Noordsy, David Anderson, Jamie McKenna, Jim Duclos, Bobbie Carnwath

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm.

Quorum – established.

Agenda: Bobbie C. MOVED /Jim D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

MINUTES – October 19, 2016: Jamie M. MOVED /David A. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion approved – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CPC will be meeting at the Cornwall Fire Station for next few months, while Town Hall is being renovated.
- Holly N. suggested that members up for re-election bring their petition to the next meeting.
- At the next meeting, Jamie M. will show members how to set up a separate email account for Town business that can be forwarded to the inbox of members' personal email accounts, for efficiency.
- Holly N. reminded members of the ongoing need to recruit for the open position on the board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Act 174** - Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans – see Bobbie C's report under New Business.
- **Update on bridge** – removal has begun. In collaboration with the Town of Salisbury, the Cornwall Select Board has arranged for removal of burned bridge and erection of temporary bridge.

- **Status report on Hodges solar** – The Select Board took the unusual action of filing an updated screening plan to the Public Service Board instead of the applicant.
- **Municipal Planning Grant application** – was submitted by the deadline, along with a request for a waiver from the Request for Proposals process, on the basis of hardship.
- **Recreation Committee** - Holly N. contacted Annie Wilson, who expressed enthusiasm about the idea of mapping recreation areas in town. Annie W. will talk with the Recreation Committee about this idea.
- **Application fees** - (Jim Duclos recused himself from the following discussion on fees that are the basis of his compensation as Zoning Administrator.) The Board discussed fees for new residential construction, minor and major subdivisions, and commercial construction and reviewed a draft of recommendations to the Select Board prepared by Bobbie C. Next step is to consult with Matt Bonner, Development Review Board co-chair, and also with Sue Johnson, before approving the draft recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Act 174 - Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans**
Bobbie C. shared information from a recent training she attended on Act 174 sponsored by Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Act 174 became effective less than 2 weeks ago. Towns have the option of bringing the Town Plan in compliance or not with the new energy planning standards. If Cornwall creates an energy plan approved by State, then the Town would receive “substantial deference” in matters that go before the Public Service Board (PSB). If Cornwall does not make an energy plan in compliance with the new State standards, the Town would continue to receive “due consideration” in the PSB process.

Holly N. said that Cornwall Select Board has discussed Act 174 but not yet taken a position. The Select Board would like the CPC to review Act 174 standards and to make a recommendation.

Bobbie C. also told the Board about a useful tool for towns and individuals: the Community Energy Dashboard from Energy Action Network.

www.vtenergydashboard.org.

David A. reflected that Towns either need to have the expertise or have access to the expertise in order to comply with the new energy planning standards. Addison Regional Planning Commission is offering training on the standards on December 7. It was suggested that the CPC hold a special meeting after this training to discuss this issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Cornwall Town Plan 5-year update is due in 2018
- Jamie M. suggested that the Board create a master plan with target dates for CPC tasks going forward.

Bobbie MOVED / Jim SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the CPC