

Draft Minutes: Marlboro Planning Commission, October 13, 2020

In attendance through Zoom video conference: Bennett Grout, Staley McDermet, Matt Tell, Mary Sargent, Tim Segar, Patti Smith, Will Shakespeare, Ashley Bies

Meeting opened at 5:06 pm

Minutes: Minutes from September 8th approved unanimously.

Communications

Sept 11 Updating Your Town Plan for Act 171. Since January 1st, 2018, towns and RPCs are required to identify forest blocks and habitat connectors, as well as plan for development in those places in ways that minimize forest fragmentation. This requirement asks towns to look at the larger patterns of forests and dive into the science of what is known about connectivity in their region at multiple scales. Some of the data involved is immediately actionable, but some of the models warrant caution and additional research. Tune in to hear how VT Fish & Wildlife Department can help your town interpret available data and translate it into actionable planning and policy.

Presenters: Jens Hilke & Andy Wood

[Community Wildlife Program 2020 Virtual Workshops and Trainings Schedule](#)

Repeat sessions of this webinar will be offered on the following four dates:

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|--|
| 9/14/20, | 7:00pm-8:00pm | REGISTER |
| · | 10/22/20, | 2:00pm-3:00pm REGISTER |
| · | 11/18/20, | 10:00am-11:00am REGISTER |
| · | 12/07/20, | 1:00pm-2:00pm REGISTER |

Sept 13 From John Bennett: If you're interested in learning about the bike/ped program, here's a link to the 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program Guide

<https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/VTRANS/external/MAB-LP/MAB%20File%20Transfer/2020%20Bicycle%20and%20Pedestrian%20Program/2020%20BikePed%20Program%20Guide.pdf>

Sept 23 VTrans virtual town hall to be held Tuesday, October 6th from 4-5 p.m. to discuss the Vermont Rail Plan and Vermont Freight Plan updates. This is the first of two virtual Town Hall Meetings being held this year as part of updating the State's Freight and Rail Plans. This Town Hall will include a short project briefing followed by a question and answer session. Please save the date. Forward this invite to friends, family, and neighbors who may be interested!

Sept 27 Ashley Bies submitted maps of fragmentation sensitive mammal wildlife road crossing datapoints. He requests to consult with the PC before proceeding with actual linkage mapping for the Town Plan.

Sept 28 Soak Up the Rain New England Webinar Series: The Green Connector: Building Municipal Resiliency Through Nature-based Approaches
Wednesday, October 14, 1:00 – 2:30 PM EDT
Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/118210632183>

Oct 1 New Vermont Dam Safety and Ownership Rules Informational Webinar
Tuesday, October 6th - 6:30-8:00 PM

- Oct 6 Transportation Alternative Grants Program announcement. Interested parties should attend an application workshop Wed. Oct. 14th from 10am-11:30am.
- Oct 12 Community Development Webinar
The webinar is free but space is limited. October 28, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
- Oct 12 FY2021 Mobility and Transportation Innovations Grant Program (MTI)
Support mobility and access to services for transit-dependent citizens. Oct. 30th deadline
- Oct 12 Windham Region Brownfields Area-wide plan call for letters of interest Oct. 13, 2020
Letters of Interest should be submitted to Susan Westa, WRC Brownfields Program Manager at swesta@windhamregional.org, by November 20, 2020. or 802-257-4547, ext.108

Review Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications:

- Study Areas located in state-designated downtowns and village centers will be given priority.
- Study Area clearly identified.
- Evidence of a community's commitment to downtown or village revitalization.
- Capacity to lead project and commitment to plan implementation.
- Strong need and outcome identified.
- Clarity of Letter of Interest.

Discussion

Driveways are currently allowed in Wildlife Habitat Overlay. Staley proposed that we classify a driveway as a structure, and therefore remove its classification as an exemption to the Wildlife Habitat Overlay provisions.

The Commission unanimously approved the following proposals:

1. Article VII

In Article VII, Definitions, add "driveway, private road, and a temporary road such as an access road or logging road" to the second sentence of the definition of "Structure".

If approved, the definition of structure will read:

"Structure: Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires location on the ground or attachment to something having location on the ground. A parking space, *driveway, private road, and a temporary road such as an access road or logging road* are considered structures."

Section 350 - Wildlife Habitat Overlay District

Section 353 – Exemptions:

In exemption #2, move the word "driveway" to later in the sentence to avoid confusion with "non-structural items":

If Approved, exemption #2 will read:

2. Repairs or minor alterations to non-structural items (including but not limited to the following examples: septic systems, wells, ~~driveways~~, patios, utility lines, fences, gardens, yard areas, ponds, etc.) *and driveways* existing prior to the effective date of these Regulations or installed in conformance with a Wildlife Habitat Overlay Conditional Use Permit.

2. Section 350 - Wildlife Habitat Overlay District
Section 353 - Exemptions:
Delete Exemption #6, Primitive camps.

If approved, primitive camps will no longer be exempt from the provisions of the Wildlife Habitat Overlay District.

Section 380 - Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Regulations & Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area Overlay District

Section 390 - Definitions

A separate definition of "Structure" that occurs in Section 390, applies only to the Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area Overlay District. This special definition of "Structure" in Section 390, applies only to the Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Regulations & Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area Overlay District. To avoid confusion, add the Section title and numbers to which this special definition of structure applies.

If approved, the definition of structure in the Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Regulations & Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area Overlay District will read:

"Structure: For regulatory purposes under this *Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Regulations & Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area Overlay District* Section only, *(Section numbers 380 through 390)*, structure is defined as a walled and roofed building, as well as a manufactured home, and any related built systems, including gas or liquid storage tanks."

The next steps will be to craft a warning, and then have it printed in the appropriate outlets.

Further discussion about traffic signage on South Road.

Ashley described his work on the wildlife road crossing datapoints, as well as the collaboration with adjoining towns on developing a larger map of mammal migration. There is some concern about how to develop a coherent map of Proposed Land Uses.

Further discussion around the Town Plan map classifications, to be continued.

Adjourned at 7:05 PM Next Meeting will be November 8th

Respectfully submitted,
Don Sherefkin