

Approved Minutes: Marlboro Planning Commission, January 12, 2021 rev. 1/13

In attendance through Zoom video conference: Staley McDermet, Matt Tell, Mary Sargent, Tim Segar, Patti Smith, Will Shakespeare, Jennifer Girouard, Edie Mas, Donald Sherefkin.
Jeff Nugent from Windham Regional.

Meeting opened at 5:04 pm

Minutes: Minutes from December 8th approved unanimously.

Communications

Dec 14 The Department of Housing and Community Development announced the availability of approximately \$490,000 in Downtown Transportation Fund Grants (DTF) to support revitalization efforts in [Designated Downtowns](#) and an additional \$67,000 in Clean Water Initiative funding for eligible storm water implementation projects.

Grant applications for Downtown Transportation Fund Grants are due March 8, 2021 and will be awarded April 26, 2021.

[2021 Downtown Transportation Fund Program Description](#)

Dec 18 grant applications for FY21 Better Connections planning funds to your towns. Interested applicants must submit a [Letter of Intent Form](#) by January 15, 2021, prior to submitting a formal [application](#), due by February 19, 2021. Complete application instructions are described in the [2021-2022 Grant Application Packet](#). Additional information is available in the [2021-2022 Program Overview](#) and on the [Better Connections Program website](#).

Questions can be directed to WRC's Regional Transport Planner Colin Bratton, cbratton@windhamregional.org.

Jan 5 Vermont Natural Resources Council - Small Grants for Smart Growth program in 2021: Larger grants of \$3,000 are now available in a competitive grant round, with applications due Feb. 1, in addition to awards of up to \$1,500 available on a rolling basis. Apply by February 1st if you have a project that could benefit from a \$3,000 grant. For more information go to <https://vnrc.org/small-grants-for-smart-growth/>

Questions - Kate McCarthy, VNRC Sustainable Communities Program Director kmccarthy@VNRC.ORG

Jan 5 Zoning for Great Neighborhoods. Virtual training via Zoom. Learn more about ways to make your community more inclusive and economically stronger by registering for interactive online training sponsored by AARP-VT, ACCD and CNU. Learn more and [register here](#). January 26 + 28. 1:00-2:30PM.

Discussions

Tim is waiting to hear from Democracy Builders campus if (and how) they would like to be included in the Town Plan document. Will they continue to honor the Ecological Preserve that had been created by Marlboro College?

We have been encouraged to apply for a VTrans grant to address town issues. South road traffic and pedestrian issues. Signage, etc. February 19th is the deadline for submission. Tim will contact the Whitehouses to see if they would be interested in administering the grant, in the event that we received the grant.

VTrans is now soliciting applications for small-scale projects through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. The intent of the Small-scale Bike/Ped grant Program is to improve access and safety for people walking and/or bicycling through the construction of simple physical improvements. Grants are to reimburse construction costs only and will be awarded in the range of \$5,000 to \$75,000. The local share of projects is 50%. Local match may be cash, in-kind labor, donated materials, or any combination thereof.

The Cultural resources map does not currently include the Meeting House church building. The Historical Society can recommend that it be added.

Jeff Nugent from the Windham Regional Commission will be joining us to discuss our revised maps for the Town Plan. He explained that many of the maps are not required, but are typically included in Town Plans, including Water Resources, Natural Resources,

Map 1 Wildlife Resources and Natural Resources. The bear habitat data is from the '90's, and may no longer be very accurate. Wildlife crossings and overlays may want to be on a separate map, with reference to the study. Or we may wish to look at the important crossings as places to think about expanding the conserved lands in the Future Land Use map to include these areas. When we study the crossings, it can be useful to consider how animals would move if one of them were to be removed. The future land use map could select a few to designate as "important crossings." Stratton and Dover show mast areas and bear habitats.

Map 2 Water Resources. He is concerned that it is a little "messy" with the combined wetlands and surface water buffers. Some information could be put onto a smaller reference map to help keep the principle map easy to read.

Map 3 Cultural Resources, Community Facilities and Transportation. Jeff wonders if this might be too confusing. Perhaps Community Facilities will need to be separated. Scenic data could be in a smaller inset map?

Map 4 Existing Land Use – This will show our Zoning Districts.

Map 5 Future Land use is the terminology recommended for prospective land use. Jeff thinks this is the most important map. It is an aspirational policy statement. Might include - industrial uses, conservation, transportation, recreation, Conservation Area Connection, Significant crossings (a more condensed version of the Wildlife Crossing). Should not have a Zoning overlay – that is on Map 4.

The Future Land use map is required. Specific title for the map can be modified.

The Map showing energy potentials for Solar Energy map is optional.

One strategy for expanding conserved lands on Map 5 would be to identify existing conservation land and build out from there.

After Jeff left the meeting, we began to discuss the timeline for completing the work and delivering the completed Town Plan to the Select Board. We agreed that the Town Plan would not be presented at the Town Meeting for a vote. It would require approval from the Select Board and we

would need to notify Marlboro residents of the time and place to review and approve the Town Plan. Then it would need final approval from the WRC. We did not attach specific dates to these three approval points.

Staley suggested that we decide on the maps and confirm that the description in the Plan conforms to the map. We could each also go to our individual Plan sections and identify if there are items that can be added to the maps.

Edy suggests that we should finish up the "Data Maps" and then focus in on the Prospective Map.

We agreed to begin meeting bi-weekly in order to expedite the process.

•***anticipated, potential (adjective)***

considered,

intended,

approaching,

future,

possible,

expected,

suggested

recommended

desired

prospective

Adjourned at 7:00 PM Next Meeting will be January 26th

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Sherefkin