

ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION 4/25/2024 Meeting Minutes

PC Present: Chair, Deborah Wright, Jana Bryan, John Dunbar, Jim Mullen, Guy Payne, Taylor Pichette, Dalila Hall; Staff Gary Fox,

Zoom: Planning Administrator, Halle Abuayyash

1. Call Meeting to Order -Wright called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Public Comment for items not on the agenda- None were made before the recording stated.
3. Approval of March 28, 2024, minutes. Hall moved to approve the minutes of 3/28/24, Dunbar seconded, **Hall clarified Mullen offered to draft letter to Legislators highlighting the act is unclear as written and needs to be modified to provide clarity. Be Home Act language does not provide clarity** and motion carried to approve amended minutes.
4. Bylaw Consultant Update- Steering Committee- The contract was signed on April 24. Steering Committee Hall, Dunbar and Halle will set up kick-offs and plan of action.
5. Town Plan Adoption-April 30th Public Notice Event & Presentation- Halle presented the overview and showed the Power Point. Hall suggested an overview of the process be presented and said she had received feedback that having this meeting the same night as the Triboard was a lot of information. Fox explained all Boards will attend, but three more public hearings will be announced with the next one in June. Comments should be sent to planning@rockbf.org
 - Public Notice Agenda- purposes, vision, objectives, what is different from past Plan, content overview, compatibility with Regional Plans- suggestion by WRC, Comments and Questions. Payne suggested on the overview to explain the maintain, evolve, transform
 - Who is the Moderator? Wright, goals they have achieved.
 - Who will be presenting? Halle and others
 - What content to present? Chapters' Overview should take no more than 30 minutes- focus on the priorities and exciting new items. Halle asked them all to add their name to the comments for the slides they were interested in speaking at. On Slide 6; presenters in order, Wright: Land Use, Transportation, Dunbar: Housing and Economy, Hall: Education, Historic Resources, and Municipal, Health & Human Services, Payne: Energy, Flood Resilience, Natural Resources
 - How long to present? 30 minutes including welcome, introduction and 30 minutes Q&A

Payne suggested an addition to the agenda, but Fox said there could be no additions. He suggested adding to the 'parking lot', along with public comments on 4.30.24 They agreed to explain the maps, and they will be printed for viewing on 4.30.2024. Fox said on Land Use categories, Pg. 11 does this map match? There is no definition for commercial, industrial. If

it does not meet statute, PC can have changes ready. On Slide 5, PC will highlight what is new.

6. TOR FERC comments- Working on consistency with other Towns. Fox said concerns for the 30-50 year license, GRH said they were not interested in making any changes on recreation, environment. CT River Conservancy presented peak flows showing erosion. For BF, the plant is in the middle of the Downtown. When the license was renewed in 1979, there was no mitigation required, an amendment in 1986 that environmental, recreation and economic must be mitigated and compensated. Intervener status there is more leverage and Rockingham is requesting Like Town Plan, must send to abutting Towns, Statutory piece (like preferred site piece). If PC has issues, they can be addressed. Comments can be received through May 22, the SB will move on May 7. Any comments please send to Betsy at developmentassist@rockbf.org The license can be requested to be only 30 years. Language can be added as an item to mitigate the loss for river access in the Downtown and have specifics too.

7. Other Business- Fox asked to date the next meeting to discuss comments- May 9 was approved for 6 pm. Set a public comment period. Bryan asked if they had seen the Committee appointment list, Payne, Mullen renews in 2024, Bryan, Hall, Pichette Dunbar through June 2026. Mary Wallace and Remy Walker should be removed. The terms end on fiscal year, June 30. Wright asked when the Town Plan was started, in 2019. The career fair at BFUHS on May 16, Guy and Deb would attend. Payne will announce Town Plan on Front Porch Forum

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6 pm, 3rd Floor Conference Room and regular scheduled meeting Thursday, May 30, 2024

9. Adjourn -At 7:13 pm, Dunbar moved to adjourn, Payne seconded, and motion carried.

Recording Clerk Betsy Thurston