

Duxbury Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2014

Members present: Trevor Cole, Kim Greenwood, Garrett MacCurtain, Brian T. Fitzgerald

Guests present: Stephanie Smith, Central Vermont RPC

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Brian Fitzgerald.

Forest Stewardship Project: Stephanie briefed the planning commission on this collaborative project among four RPCs and the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Based, in part, on earlier conversations between Stephanie and Brian, Duxbury was selected as one of four Central Vermont towns to participate in the project.

The goal of the project is to take a big-picture look at forest planning with the goal of keeping forests intact. This will maintain habitat connectivity, forest health and productivity, ecosystem quality and a strong forest economy. The project is not prescriptive, but is intended to provide towns with information and tools that will improve forest stewardship.

The timeframe for the project is to review current town goals and strategies by the end of July and develop new strategies by the end of 2014.

Commission members were enthusiastic about this initiative and thanked Stephanie for her efforts. Stephanie offered to complete the plan review and develop draft strategies for the commission to consider. Discussion of the review and draft strategies will take place at the commission's August 14 meeting.

Agenda Change: Members agreed to address other business items until the scheduled time for the public hearing on the draft town plan.

Minutes: On motion by Garrett/Trevor, the minutes of the March 20, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

AT&T Wireless Facility Proposal: Brian described a proposal by AT&T Wireless to co-locate a wireless facility at the Verizon Wireless facility on Montgomery Timber Company property south of River Road. The Verizon facility was reviewed by the planning commission at its November 14, 2013 meeting. The law firm representing AT&T provided the town with the required pre-application notice and request for recommendation, and has asked for a response by June 16.

Brian described the proposal and plans. The proposed facility will consist of an antenna array on the Verizon monopole tower, located below the Verizon array. In addition, there will be a building and auxiliary generator constructed within Verizon's fenced compound. The project will not increase the footprint of the Verizon facility that has been reviewed and has received a Certificate of Public Good by the Public Service Board. Coverage maps indicate that wireless coverage within the town will be improved.

Commission members agreed that the project will have minimal impact and should be approved. The benefits of co-locating at an existing facility were noted. Brian will file the review form with AT&T's attorney prior to the deadline.

Town Plan Map Updates: Brian has received a quote from the Central Vermont RPC for updates of six maps in the town plan. The quote is for \$585, or 13 hours of GIS work at \$45.00 per hour. Commission members agreed that the map updates are an important component of the plan. Brian will coordinate with Dick Charland to authorize the work. He will also check with the RPC to see if additional mapping may be needed to comply with new requirements to address river corridor protection in the revised plan.

Planning Commission Resignation: Garrett announced that this will be his last meeting as a member of the Commission. This is not unexpected, as he was elected at town meeting to represent Duxbury on the Harwood Union H.S. board. We thanked for his dedication and hard work during his tenure, in particular his work on the town plan revision. We will be looking for a replacement for the two years remaining on his term.

Town Plan: No members of the public attended the public hearing on the draft plan, scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the town garage meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes by B.T. Fitzgerald