

## Duxbury Planning Commission

### Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2017

Members present: Doug Weber, Bill Whitehair, Brian T. Fitzgerald

Others present: Erin Lander, Erik Zetterstrom, David Specht, Kris Stepenuck, Michele Braun

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

**Agenda changes:** none

**Minutes:** On motion by Doug/Bill, the minutes of the June 8, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

**Public comments:** none

**Flood resilience:** Michele Braun (Friends of the Winooski River) and Kris Stepenuck (Lake Champlain Sea Grant) described their outreach program to communities in the Winooski watershed regarding erosional flood resilience. The focus is on steps that communities can take to reduce economic losses during flood events. By taking certain measures, towns can be eligible for more financial assistance from the State when there is a federally-declared disaster. Duxbury has already taken most of those measures, so it is responsible for 12.5% of the cost of repairing damage to public infrastructure. The Town would be eligible for an additional 5%, bringing Duxbury's share down to 7.5%, if the Town adopts river corridor protection that meets State requirements.

Much discussion ensued. Corridor protection would be included in the land development regulations that are currently being revised. The Agency of Natural Resources has model regulations on its website that can serve as a starting point. The corridor boundaries have been determined by ANR for larger streams and rivers, and are set at 50 feet for smaller streams. This information is available on the ANR Natural Resources Atlas. Several questions arose that Michele and Kris will research for us.

Michele will explore the possibility of holding a public event in September that would feature demonstrations of river dynamics using a stream table, possibly in cooperation with Moretown or Waterbury.

No decisions were made, but Planning Commission members expressed their appreciation to Kris and Michele for educating us on this topic, which is very timely given our current work on the land development regulations.

**Energy planning:** Brian gave an overview of energy planning at the state and regional level, and explained how developing a Duxbury energy plan (really a component of the town plan) could benefit the town, especially when siting renewable energy projects. Following discussion, it was decided to wait and see what the regional energy plan looks like and how energy planning in other Central Vermont towns is going before committing to moving forward. Brian said he would follow this issue and keep planning commission members informed.

**Other business:** Doug passed along to Erin information about a state grant opportunity for road projects.

**Next meeting:** August 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the town garage meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes by B.T. Fitzgerald