

WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

June 28, 2012

Present: Hal Pyke, Barbara Truex, Elvin Kaplan, Mark Isenberg, Jason Rasmussen, Martha Harrison

1. Call to Order – Planning Commission Chair Hal Pyke called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
2. Changes or Additions – None
3. Public Comment – None
4. Finalize recreation survey – There was discussion about whether the Planning Commission’s objective is to update the Recreation chapter of the Town Plan, or to develop a Recreation Plan. The PC agreed to update the Recreation chapter with enough detail that it can serve as a Recreation Plan. The PC made minor changes to the survey, but agreed not to ask people to rank order their preferences. There was discussion about when to mail the survey, how to publicize it, and how the results will be reported. The PC agreed to mail the survey right after Labor Day and give people until the end of September to return it. Martha asked the PC how they feel about having an envelope stuffing party. The PC agreed. Martha agreed to provide Jason with the mailing lists. Jason agreed to produce labels.
5. Discuss & establish economic development objectives – Hal said we should state our desired outcome clearly. Barbara said we need quantitative information on the impact of the closing of the ski area on job loss, property values, etc. Hal said the objective should be to ensure the economic viability of the town. Mark suggested that the PC needs to develop a strategy to maintain the economic viability of our community. Mark said we are losing tax base/property values, jobs, business revenue, and visitors. There was discussion about the high number of inexpensive houses on the market. Jason suggested gathering more data about West Windsor’s economy as it was a few years ago and as it is now. Jason also suggested focus groups with the regional development corporation and other economic experts. Hal said he will look at five years of tax revenue. Mark said he will look at the effect of the economic downturn and the closing of the resort on the General Store. Barbara said West Windsor is not an ideal site for heavy industry and the town should determine the types of business that it wants to attract and promote. Jason said he will get current and past data on the number and types of jobs in West Windsor. Hal said he will get some housing information from Seth Warren. Barbara suggested that everyone review the existing economic development chapter of the Town Plan. Mark wondered about the trend in Vermont’s median age. Mark also asked about traffic count trends. Jason noted that state statute describes the economic development element of a town plan well.
6. Minutes: June 7th – **Barbara moved to approve the minutes of June 7th. Elvin seconded the motion** but suggested that the minutes of meetings could be shorter. After brief discussion, **Hal called for a vote on the motion, which passed with Mark abstaining.**
7. Adjourn – The PC adjourned by consensus at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison