

HYDE PARK PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 7, 2011

All minutes are draft until approved by the planning commission; please check future minutes for the approval of these minutes.

Members Present: Greg Paus, Chairman (GP), Dan Young (DY), Rebecca Dennis (RB), and Vicki Emerson (VE)
Members Absent: Mark Isselhardt (MI)
Staff: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator
Guests: Steve Munroe, LCPC (SM) ; Tom Wawrzeniak, Member HP DRB; John Anderson, VHP Trustee; Charlie Aronovici, VHP Trustee; Dave DiDomenico, VHP Trustee

GP called to order the meeting at 7:07 PM.

1. Kick-Off Meeting for drafting of 2012-2017 Comprehensive Town and Village Plan

GP reviewed the benefits of one plan; more efficient and inclusive of town and village issues, requires only one amendment process instead of the current requirement to follow two separate statutory update processes, and defines overlapping issues. SM noted that the 2011-2016 Town Plan was just approved and has all the current statutory wording with new census data so it makes sense to bring the village goals and objectives into that plan rather than start over with a new document. SM noted that plans are an important tool to guide the town over the next five years. Additionally, state regulatory bodies rely on the town plan as the voice of the town in Act 248 and Act 250 proceedings. Trustee DiDomenico asked if the new plan would be reviewed in sections and SM confirmed that two or three chapters would be reviewed monthly to stay on track to meet a DHCA grant deadline of May 2012. SM noted that a community wellness concept would be incorporated in a few chapters but the goal of forming a wellness committee would not be included. Trustee Anderson provided an overview of the Village Trustees vision of a vibrant commercial and residential village. Discussion of that vision resulted in the group identifying uses that would create a destination center; a museum, restaurants open for dinner, corner grocery store, community center, bringing the town and village office back to Main Street, gift shops, additional sidewalks, and a trail to connect to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT). SM will revise the wording to emphasize more commercial projects and moving toward a destination center as a goal for the village. Other ideas to be added to the plan would be to list tax stabilization agreements as one way to encourage investment in the village, along with; controlling truck traffic through the village, slowing speeds, evaluating the need for seven routes in and out of the village, offering low interest loans and revolving loan funds to investors, tax credits with downtown designation, assistance through the Vermont Rural Development Council, starting a farmers' market, and expanding activities of the Community Circle group. Parking behind buildings should be explored as one option for increasing parking spaces in the village, with zoning regulations amended to restrict parking from front yards so as to not lose green space along the streets. Moss Woods should be identified as a village park. Stormwater issues should be mentioned as significant and needing further study and investment. 'Complete Streets' language and traffic calming measures should be explored for inclusion in the town road standards and when making improvements to pedestrian routes. SM suggested that new traffic counts be completed in 2012 now that the roundabout is completed. SM will next work on updating the utilities and facilities section with Karen Wescom. Next Meeting: JANUARY 4th – Town Plan Chapter Revisions to Energy & Utilities and the Education chapters.

2. Approval of Minutes

No minutes were reviewed or approved. Pending minutes for next meeting are: 12/07/11, 11/16/11 and 09/07/11.

3. Adjourn

DY moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator