

HYDE PARK PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2009

Members Present: Greg Paus (GP), Mark Isselhardt (MI), Dan Young (DY), Paul Clancy (PC), Duff Robitille (DR), Vicki Emerson (VE), Kevin Fitzgerald (KF)

Absent: None

Guests: Georgianna Robitille

First Order of Business – The commission reviewed the previous meeting minutes. MI moved and DR seconded a motion to approve the minutes as written. All were in favor.

Second Order of Business – The Town Administrator provided an update on the Rail/Trail Corridor. Although the Act 250 Coordinators originally determined the project was exempt, they have reversed their decision following an appeal by property owners in the Hardwick/St. Johnsbury area. VAST and AOT have filed an appeal to the Environmental Court to this reversal. Appeals to the Environmental Court move very slowly. Sherrie Smecker at Forest & Parks has indicated that due to the pending status of the appeal, a request to extend the Town grant to construct a trailhead facility (which expires in December) would most likely be denied. GP commented that the Coordinators' decision could actually result in any maintenance along the corridor, including highway plowing of trail crossings, becoming subject to Act 250 review. The issues under appeal are significant and could take years to resolve. The Town Administrator had inquired whether grant funds could be used for sidewalks down Depot Street in lieu of the trailhead facility, but was advised by Forest & Parks that this was not possible. DR moved and PC seconded a motion to direct the Town Administrator to send a letter to Forest & Parks surrendering the Town grant to build a trailhead facility. All were in favor.

Third Order of Business – GP shared that the Town Plan is due to be updated in 2010. Julia Compagna explained that due to state budget cuts, no grant funding is available to hire consultants such as LCPC to assist with the update. She stated that the Commission has completed Plan updates “in-house” in the past and asked if the Commission wished to begin the process. The Commission decided to begin the process and agreed to review one or two chapters a month beginning with Chapters I and II at their December meeting. The Town Administrator will gather community profile information related to growth and regulatory changes from in-house sources. She will also obtain available census data from LCPC. The Town Administrator will invite representatives from police, fire, rescue, recreation and library to the December meeting. The Town Administrator will issue a press release and website posting soliciting public input into the update process.

VE moved and DY seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. All were in favor.

The Commission toured the newly renovated Town Office building following their meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia J. Compagna
Town Administrator