**Planning Commission**

**Town of Weston**

**PO Box 98, Weston, VT 05161-0098**

**Minutes of Meeting, February 5, 2024**

Present: James (Lexi) Young, Geof Brown, Chris Morrow, Morgan Hart, Lisa Swett, and Matt Bachler

Guest: Deb Granquist, DRB Chair

Not Present: Tom Ettinger

1. Lexi Young declares a PC quorum and calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Additions / Changes to the Agenda:
   1. None
3. Renewal of Village Center Designation for Weston
   1. Lexi put forward a motion to pursue the renewal of the Village Center Designation and Chris seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. Geof will present the documents to the Selectboard for their approval.
4. Reviewed re-write of “Natural, Scenic, Historic, and Cultural Resources” and “Education” section of the town plan:
   1. Page 8, policy 15. In discussion relative to the amount of land that is not under current use or not part of conservation land, Deb Granquist pointed out that very little land exists for development and therefore should we encourage putting more in to current use which is specifically stated in the policy section?
      1. Geof suggested that we extract the actual acreage between current use and developable land so we can see what is really developable. This is an action item that Matt will follow up on and will be included in the town plan.
   2. Page 8, policy 11. Discussion that the language on the dam should change – should encourage evaluation of its impact on flooding upstream.
   3. Page 7, last paragraph. Lexi suggested the language should focus on the flooding impact on all the properties on Park Street.
   4. Regarding the mineral section, Deb pointed out that the language in this section will be used by the DRB as it decides any application for mineral extraction. DRB has to comply with town plan and the current language is very slanted against extraction. Matt was requested to look at other town versions to see if we could find language that is more neutral. It was pointed out that as a state with the amount of dirt roads we have, sand and stone is getting more costly and scarce. More research needs to be done on this section in total.
   5. Page 9, page 3. Language change to reflect DRB, not planning commission.
5. Regarding the Education section – consider adding information regarding Weston Pop Up U – relative to adult education as well as supporting children’s education.
   1. Page 3, policy 8 “encourage public education” – opportunity to include information on what Kinhaven is doing with Burr Burton.
6. The Town Plan section “Energy” was reviewed by Matt Bachler:
   1. Geof suggested that we add energy resiliency as part of this chapter to improve town’s grid performance and it was also suggested we express support for GMPs work in this area.
   2. Lexi also suggested that we should also have a policy that supports GMP’s efforts at tree maintenance around power lines.
   3. Chris pointed out that references to compact fluorescents should be changed to LED.
7. The Town Plan section “Transportation” was reviewed by Matt Bachler:
   1. Collectively we discussed the broader issue that has come with climate change has resulted in multiple mud seasons, the need for more gravel, and the idea that maybe paving does have to happen on some roads. This will require language to put this forward as a new consideration.
   2. It was also agreed that the PC supports adding language that encourages looking at evaluating all the intersections that surround Farrar Park.
   3. We also felt that an intersection between transportation and power could involve the burying of power lines
   4. Page 14, Policy #12 under transportation needs to be reworded in the current section – encourage density in downtown,
8. Approved minutes for November 1, December 4 and January 11 meetings.
   1. Lexi motioned approved all minutes – Morgan second---- all approved.
9. New and Old Business:
   1. Geof reviewed PC emails that are available should anyone want one.
10. Lexi motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. Chris seconded the motion. *Motion passes unanimously*.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_     James Young, Chair            Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Geof Brown, Secretary Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_