

Tinmouth Planning Commission
April 18, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Ann Lundquist, Larry Carabeau, Judy Gilmore, Andy Gilmore, and Vito Macaluso

Members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh, Bob Lloyd, and Pat Psholka

Others: present in-person: Gail Fallar Secretary

And via Zoom: Sherry Johnson

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:06. Members reviewed the agenda, no changes.

Minutes of 3/21/24 – Judy moved, Andy 2nded, to approve, all voted in favor.

Members welcomed Ann as the new member. She advised she was excited to be appointed and be of help.

General planning discussion:

Michael noted that at a recent Zoning Board of Adjustment there were two permits granted for houses for two young people, an encouraging sign.

He advised that much work has been done on updating the current town plan, that Energy likely the last section that needs work. Rutland Regional Planning Commission will be helping with that.

The Community Needs Survey has been distributed; return is due April 22nd. The survey included the goals of the original town plan (1974) to see how town people feel about them. They have been included in every update of the plan since then.

The PC makes recommendations to the Select Board – creates the Town Plan, which is a planning document, and then prepares zoning and subdivision regulations which are intended to enact and enforce goals included in the Town Plan.

Vito advised that a huge proposed solar farm recently made the news in the town of Panton, whose town plan does not allow such a project. It is important that Tinmouth has an Enhanced Energy Plan in order to have a say in a big energy development.

Bob reminded members that Green Mountain Power sent representatives to a PC meeting several years ago who clearly stated that it was highly unlikely that GMP would allow anyone to connect to their 44KV line that runs from power facility in Proctor to the quarry in Danby. A major substation would be needed. Vito noted that when GMP upgraded that line a few years ago, the construction crew advised there was talk of a substation in Danby that would link that line to Pawlet. PC needs to keep that in mind.

Bob advised that Richard Amore, who helped the Town designate a Village Center, sent word of a new initiative from the Preservation Trust of Vermont in partnership with the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Vermont Community Foundation, looking to help towns establish a community/village trust to help with economic development and community revitalization. Members discussed whether the Old Creamery might be a good project, noting that a use would be an important factor. Ann and Gail will attend a zoom meeting to learn more details.

Members discussed: affordable housing – affordable to who/cost of working out of town/limitations of soil for septic systems; how encourage businesses to move to town to provide jobs – whether working from home with VTel's fiber optic would be a solution; the need for reliable electricity and cell service; encouraging buying local – goes back into the community; job growth, etc.

Jeremy from RRPC will attend the May meeting with energy information.

Next meeting is May 16, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Fallar, Secretary
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