

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00pm
Castleton Town Offices
263 VT – 30
Castleton, VT 05732**

PRESENT: Janet Currie, Planning Commission Chair; Joseph Bruno, Planning Commission Vice Chair; Robert Franzoni, Planning Commission Member; Jonas Rosenthal, Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission Member; Peter Mantello, Police Chief; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary; ; Transportation Planner for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Devon Neary; Sean Manovill; Robert Spaulding; Hal Monez; Ted Day; JoAnn Riley; Nancy Mark; Claire O'Brien; Robert Bjorklund; Richard Combs.

ABSENT: John Pintello, Planning Commission Member

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Janet Currie, Planning Commission Member at 7:02pm.

AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

Joseph Bruno made a motion to approve the Agenda. Robert Franzoni seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVAL FOR OCTOBER 23, 2018 AND NOVEMBER 13, 2018

Joseph Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2018 only. Robert Franzoni seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

It was noted that the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting are not available for approval.

DISCUSSION FOR SANDLOT SOLAR PROPOSED SOLAR SITE

Joseph Bruno made a motion to approve the Sandlot Solar site as a preferred site. Robert Franzoni seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The proposed site referred to is for a 500KW Solar Array behind the Hubbardton Forge. The Planning Commission needs the Select Boards approval to make this location the preferred site in order to purchase solar credits.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: HAL MONEZ

Hal Monez is a resident of Castleton that would like to propose a new by-law to the Noise Ordinance. Mr. Monez would like the by-law to state that music should not be heard outside of one's house, vehicle or on any of their property – day or night. Mr. Monez has spoken to Chief Mantello about a specific issue with a neighbor playing loud music throughout the day so that the Monez family cannot enjoy time outside or inside their home.

Chief Mantello shared that the Castleton Police Department may prosecute after 11pm as there is a night time ordinance. Mr. Monez shared his issue with the tenants next door to his residence. Chief Mantello has spoken with the individual on the property but apparently there has been no change. It was determined that the property is owned by Mr. Paul McClure and the issue is with the tenant. Ms. Currie

recommended mediation to Mr. Monez with Mr. Paul McClure as he may not be aware of the issue. If the issue then continues, Ms. Currie invited Mr. Monez to come back to the Planning Commission. Chief Mantello will review the ordinance and then touch base with Hal Monez at a later date.

The Chief will follow up. Mr. Monez was invited to come back to the Planning Commission if there is no resolution and at that time, the Planning Commission will consider options about re-drafting the Noise Ordinance.

Discussion was held over the difficulty of measuring decibels in order to give tickets for volume.

GUEST: DEVON NEARY

Transportation Planner for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Devon Neary was present and participated in discussions of the Better Connection Grant Program application.

DISCUSSION REGARDING APPLYING FOR A BETTER CONNECTIONS GRANT FOR THE ROUTE 4A CORRIDOR

Jonas began the discussion by explaining that over the last four (4) years, the Vermont Department of Transportation has funded planning activities for communities to write "Corridor Management Plans." These plans link different modes of transportation such as pedestrian walking and public transportation. VTRANS look for communities long-range planning. "A successful master plan will include an extensive and diverse public engagement process with multiple public meetings, workshops, charrettes, and/or pop-up events." (Eligible Project Categories, <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>.)

Jonas asked Chief Mantello to identify high accident locations. From June 2018 to December, there were fifty-nine (59) accidents, seven (7) of which had serious injuries. There was one (1) fatality at the Four (4) Corners a year ago. The Route 30 and Route 4a intersection does seem dangerous. Mr. Neary recommended that safety issues such as those listed prior be included in the application for the grant.

Jonas identified six (6) goals and objectives of this project.

1. Provide recommendations for land use that would best encourage non-motorized transportation and public transit within and along the corridor; (Examples given were public transportation stopping at the College and train station, possibly the park and ride as well.)
2. Develop alternatives and implementation plans for new pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit infrastructure along the corridor;
3. Provide wayfinding sign recommendations to key sites along the corridor;
4. Develop conceptual construction plans, estimates, and implementation strategies that will guide funding efforts in the near future;
5. Develop an implementation plan focused on a Complete Street master plan for the corridor focusing on greater safety and increased options for residents and visitors to walk and bike thus increasing business activity and economic vitality for Castleton; and
6. Write a strategic plan to recruit business acceptable to the residents of Castleton.

In 2014 there was an Economical Analysis of commercial land and industrial market in Castleton. There were eight (8) recommendations made to the municipality. The Town has not followed through on any of them and this is a good opportunity for the municipality to participate in an Economic Development study.

Mr. Rosenthal provided information to the public and Planning Commission regarding the Better Connections Grant Program. There have been twelve (12) Better Connections Grants awarded since 2015. Only three (3) communities will be selected for the program this year, there were twelve (12) preapplications developed with the state, Mr. Rosenthal believes that eight (8) or nine (9) will become full applications. The Town of Castleton will be competing with Rutland City. Mr. Mosenthal stated that it was the intention of this Commission to submit an application on behalf of the Town. The Select Board approved a motion last night, January 14, 2019, making Sand Lot (behind Hubbardton Forge) the preferred site for a Solar Array. If the application is not successful this time, the Planning Commission will try again, but they will begin a dialogue with property owners, residents and businesses.

Mr. Neary recommended that the Planning Commission highlight that the plan is for all user, ADA compliance and public transit connections as well as the highway safety.

If the Town of Castleton is funded, the Select Board will appoint a Steering Committee to solicit ideas and options for transportation purposes. The Town would be able to hire transportation planner, engineers and address a variety of things. There is some data on traffic counts from 2017, but if funded, the Town may be able to complete another.

Resident, Christine Smith asked if the Planning Commission has been in contact with the University about combining growth, professional office buildings? Ms. Currie responded that Dennis Proulx, Dean of Students at Castleton University may be attending the Planning Commission meeting of Tuesday, January 22, 2019. At this time, the Commission is looking for public input to help make the area more appealing to new businesses and residents. JoAnne Riley of the Castleton Community Center; created a questionnaire for Members of the Center and the majority of responses document concern over safety. Ms. Currie asks the public to communicate what they want to see.

Resident, Nancy Mark asked if there was a preliminary application or something that has been submitted that the public could view. Mr. Rosenthal stated that at this point there has only been a phone conversation, but the list of six (6) goals and objectives provided tonight is the summary, the application is due January 31, 2019.

Ms. Currie asked for letters of support from area groups. These letters can be addressed to Jackie Cassino, of the Agency of Transportation. Letters can be delivered to the Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, Karen Stewart or emailed to Ms. Currie (jkcurre1@gmail.com) as soon as possible. The drop-dead date for the letter is January 28, 2019.

Water quality improvements were not addressed in the application, however, Town Manager, Mike Jones is working with Hillary Solomon from the Poultney Waterway Conservation Resource District to address water issues at this time, but these are in the 4a corridor, those funds that will be applied for will be for the engineering part. This grant is 100%. The Select Board previously approved a resolution regarding matching funds.

The Planning Commission invited the public to attend the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Mr. Franzoni asked Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Devon Neary about a section of route 30 near Crystal Beach that he feels needs to be addressed as it is safety concern. Mr. Neary stated that a Strategic Highway Safety Program is something that can be done. The Planning Commission can request VTRANS do a traffic study with RRPC. Mr. Neary recommended that the commission write a letter to VTRANS .

ADJOURN

Mr. Bruno made a motion to close the Planning Commission Meeting at 7:57p.m.. Mr. Franzoni seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary