

Mendon Planning Commission Minutes (Draft)
August 6, 2018

Present: Phil Douglas, Nicole Kesselring and Teri Corsones were present. The draft July 9, 2018 minutes were approved as written.

Municipal Planning Grant: Elysa Smigielski from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission was present to discuss the preliminary draft changes to the Mendon Town Plan that she had left at the Town Office on July 9. Nicole asked if Elysa had contacted the Economic Development Committee about the proposed changes, and Elysa had not yet, but will do so.

Minor changes to the draft that members recommended include: updating the MPC members' names on the cover sheet; revise the new recommended order of sections to place "recreation", "historic and cultural resources" and "community facilities" immediately after "economic development"; and, update the "child care" section to include the new infant and toddler child care center on Route 4.

Members discussed in general the desire to highlight economic development and recreation in the updated Town Plan. Ideas discussed included electronically mapping the trails in Mendon, for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and snow biking purposes. The mapping could include ratings for levels of difficulty for each multi-use trail. Connections to existing trails in Killington and/or Rutland would be ideal, as well as with the Ralston Project properties and the VAST trails. If Mendon can be marketed for its recreational opportunities, related business opportunities might also be possible, including lodging, trail guides, box lunches, recreational apparel and equipment and "Mendon Mountain Guides Packages" featuring discounts at participating area businesses. Whether special tax rates could be offered to participating businesses should be discussed with the Select board.

Members also discussed the idea of involving the Rutland Young Professionals group, to see if there are any Mendon members who might be interested in exploring these types of ideas. Teri will connect with the group to inquire.

Before the next meeting, Elysa will update each of the sections of the Town Plan requiring updated data, Nicole will review the Flood Resiliency and Water resources sections, Phil will review the Police Protection and Fire Protection sections, and Teri will review the Economic Development and Recreation sections.

The next meeting of the Mendon Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office. (This is a day later than the normal monthly meeting date, since the normal monthly meeting date falls on the Labor Day holiday.)

Respectfully submitted

Teri Corsones