

## **Mendon Planning Commission Minutes (Draft)** **November 13, 2019**

**Present:** Justin Lindholm, Fred Bagley, Phil Douglas, Gary Sihler and Teri Corsones were present. The draft November 4, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

**Mendon Town Plan:** Members reviewed and approved the modified draft of the Mendon Town Plan that Teri updated following the November 4 meeting. The Enhanced Energy Plan will be a separate document, in lieu of the Energy Section that was originally included in the draft Town Plan.

**Enhanced Energy Plan:** Barbara Noyes Pulling was present from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, to continue the discussion from the October 7 and November 4, 2019 Mendon Planning Commission meetings concerning a draft Enhanced Energy Plan for Mendon.

Members reviewed the track changes to the Enhanced Energy Plan that Teri circulated prior to the meeting. Teri indicated that the modifications were primarily aimed at confirming that the specific goals detailed in the plan were based on the state's figures and projections, versus figures and projections that Mendon had devised. The modifications also emphasize that Mendon will strive to meet the goals where and when feasible, versus committing to the goals if the figures and/or projections on which the goals are based prove to be unrealistic or unattainable. Barbara indicated that she felt the modifications included too many "if feasible" references and stressed that the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) provides goals for the Town to strive to meet. Teri asked if the references to "Goals and Policies" in the Plan could be reduced to "Goals" instead, given the difference in meaning between goals and policies. Barbara will check on that.

Specific changes that were suggested for the draft Enhanced Energy Plan include:

- 1) Change every reference to "Rutland City Watershed" to "Rutland City Forest". Justin explained that "Rutland City Forest" is a more accurate description of the potential "preferred site" areas that members have discussed at previous meetings. Teri will continue to try to set up a meeting for Justin and Jeff Wennburg to meet to pinpoint the location of a preferred site for purposes of the Enhanced Energy Plan.

2. Modify the height of small-scale wind generation systems to 80 feet instead of 150 feet.
3. Correct the figures in the “Designated Mendon Historic Sites” section to provide that there are 14 historic structures listed on the Vermont Historic Places Register, instead of 95, 6 of which are in the Mendon Historic District, instead of 33.
4. Revise portions of the “Energy Strategies and Policies to Achieve Town Targets” section following the maps at the end of the draft Enhanced Energy Plan. In particular: provide that the select board may appoint an energy coordinator, versus shall appoint one; delete the reference to “school solar” since there is no school in Mendon; replace “Administrative Assistant” with Town Administrator”; remove references to large-scale regional wood fired heating districts, biomethane facilities, major employers’ private fleets, refueling stations for alternative fuels, Public Works Director, Business Route 4, the fire station and other Rutland Town landmarks, and in general remove the introductory statements but leave the bullets as action items.

It was agreed to continue the discussion of the Enhanced Energy Plan draft to the next meeting of the Mendon Planning Commission scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Corsones