

**Town of Charleston
Town Planning Commission**

**Public Hearing: October 24, 2018
7:00pm, Town Clerk's Office**

MINUTES

In attendance were Town Planning Commission Chair John Kellogg, Selectboard Chair Meghann Carter, Selectboard Member Larry Young, and Assistant Town Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

The hearing was called to order at 7:00 pm by John Kellogg, Chair.

Mr. Kellogg stated that the 2013 Town Plan must be renewed and revised as required by Act 174, and that a draft has been prepared and disseminated for public review and comment. The Regional Planning Commission (NVDA) contributed required data for the 2018 Town Plan draft and is currently reviewing the draft. Mr. Kellogg noted that Act 174 includes new requirements that address state energy policy in detail, so this is a major focus of the new draft. Mr. Kellogg invited any comments or observations about the draft.

Referring to the section on Recreation, Ms. Carter noted there is no mention of the Town's policy of prohibiting ATV travel on roads. The Selectboard has resisted development of ATV trails to avoid road damage. Mr. Young confirmed that when approached in the past few years by those interested in developing ATV trails in the Town, the Selectboard has declined because Vermont does not have the means of policing trails use and behavior in the way that New Hampshire does. Mr. Kellogg said language addressing this ATV policy will be added to the 2018 Town Plan draft.

After noting a few minor edits, Ms. Carter said she appreciates the priority that the 2018 Town Plan draft places on the Town's natural resources, clean water, and encouraging development that is "in proper scale" with a rural community. She also noted the following corrections/comments:

- She recommended getting an update on the status of the Clyde River Wildlife Management Area being developed through land purchases to inform the "land ownership and conservation" section.
- The section on Town-owned land should include the Ten Mile Square Road gravel pit.
- The Town's vehicle inventory needs to be updated.
- The Better Backroads program referenced in the draft has been renamed Better Roads.

Asked about references in the 2018 Town Plan draft to the possibility of establishing a parking area for carpooling for Town residents, Mr. Kellogg explained that these conversations began during the last Town Plan process and were ongoing.

Mr. Kellogg stated that careful efforts were made in this draft of the 2018 Town Plan to address all areas required by state law and regulation. He noted that the Town Planning Commission has not pursued the National Flood Insurance Program in planning efforts since there is consensus

among the Selectboard and Town residents to resist the required regulations that accompany this program. Correspondingly, flood resiliency is largely addressed in the 2018 Town Plan draft as it relates to road improvement efforts.

Asked about next steps, Mr. Kellogg stated that the Selectboard must also hold a public hearing on the 2018 Town Plan draft no sooner than 30 days from tonight, and recommended December 13th at 6:30 pm prior to the Selectboard's regular meeting that evening. Mr. Kellogg said he will reschedule the December 13th Town Planning Commission public meeting from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm that evening, with proper public notice. Ms. Carter agreed to bring the matter to the Selectboard at their meeting on October 25th. Mr. Kellogg said he will work with the Town Office staff to generate a corrected 2018 Town Plan draft as soon as possible and make it available in advance of the Selectboard public hearing on December 13th.

Seeing no other comments, Mr. Kellogg thanked those in attendance and adjourned the hearing at 7:20 pm.