Town of Grand Isle

PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 6:00 PM

At Grand Isle Fire Station (17 Hyde Road)

Meeting location was at the Fire Station due to the School Budget Election. Due to the relocation, there were issues connecting to the internet, hosting zoom, and recording the meeting. The meeting was audio recorded by CS using a cellphone.

1. Called to Order at EC opens the meeting at 6:XX PM.

Planning Commission (PC) Members Present: Emily Clark (EC), Wendy Rosica (WR), Sara Griswold (SG), Carrie San Angelo (CS)

PC Members absent: Jennifer Morway (JM)

PC Scribe not present: Melissa Boutin (MB) due to School Budget Election

Guests/Community Members Present: Colleen Bushway

1. Amendments to the meeting agenda: Northwest Regional Planning Members, Greta and Marlena will be present on June 18, 2024 instead of at this meeting.
2. No New Business.
3. Old Business:
4. Town Plan Proces Update:

EC admitted she had not spent adequate time in the partial draft plan sent by Greta on May 21, 2024. There were struggles getting it loaded onto the shared Google Drive. Transferring it does not bring in notes, and formatting is strange electronically. WR suggested Greta share the draft document file. EC stated she would ask for a Planning Commission version to upload over the next two weeks. Word is agreed upon as the software.

WR discussed findings of her review of the draft. WR stated she was not sure what of it is template or required to be included, but that some of it reads densely.

EC suggested looking into what other communities have done with their Town Plans, whether they may be in the Northwest Region or not.

EC suggests doing a 3-page, bullet pointed Executive Summary.

WR suggests spreading it out more, adding more photos, and formatting it as a slide per page. WR admits that it may not even be at the stage of being formatted due to the inconsistency through the document. WR suggests to expand the Table of Contents and make them hyperlinked and searchable to the document. Because it will be hosted online, it will make it easier to navigate. Any references to state code should also be linked to the actual state code.

SG suggested why we are doing the Plan first before the vision. EC suggested adding it into a Preface.

CS and EC suggest using a find and search in the document. EC suggests that the NWRP office has licensed software platforms that can be resources, if not outside Chittenden County.

EC references June 3, 2024 Selectboard meeting wherein the Recreation Committee needed help with Master Planning and implementation steps for their programs and organization. At that meeting EC and JM both suggested offering other organizations like the Historical Society or Library, a place or a description in our own Town Plan in lieu of the suggestion of potentially aiding them with a “Master Plan” or “Strategic Plan” with implementation steps.

WR has questions about Grand Isle State Park, but the local residents don’t use it because it is CAMPER ONLY. We should discuss that as part of the Tourism or Economy instead of as a resource or place for locals. EC is concerned about the data accuracy. The school data is not correct, and the surveys do not capture the ballooning of our population with the seasons. EC knows there are people who live elsewhere and use apps to govern when they can return to northern states. EC states there are residents in our community who are interested in preserving the character of the town but they are not voters due to their residency technically being in their other homes. EC states we should add a section about seasonality and seasonal residents with accurate data. EC states it may be a team of 10-15 going down a Google map and indicating whether the resident is full time or seasonal.

CS suggests a way for seasonal residents to come together to advocate for themselves and to work with the full-time residents to foster a sense of community ownership, despite their temporary status. WR suggests that the library building project will do that. Colleen Bushway (CB) states that in South Hero, they had community potluck dinners for their library project. CB stated they did not have to go to taxpayers with the cost of the project. EC stated she is hopeful that we can do the same in Grand Isle. CB concurred and stated that several attempts at previous fundraising were met with potential donors who were ready to donate once the library project has begun. EC stated she thinks the momentum of the project will increase ideas of both design and fundraising to cater the design.

EC states that it would be ideal to have a loop road with the fire station on the municipal property and establish a community green. SG suggested that a place to meet would be nice. WR states that her child’s school installed an outdoor stone fireplace that serves as a main focal and meeting point, and that the project solicited lots of support and donations.

WR is asking for further detailed discussion to occur in 2 weeks. EC asks for a version with commenting or track changes to be reviewed. EC states she will follow up with Greta on the status of reviewing the plan and request a draft with her edits. EC and CS suggested offering some macro-level feedback to Greta. WR suggested doing it once all the edits and suggestions are complete. EC admits that the Energy portion of the plan hasn’t been read through at all. EC states she will compile a list for the PC to help aid in further review.

WR suggested we have someone write up sections on the Fire Station and the Annex. WR, EC, and SG suggest referring to Fire Chief Adam White for the information and update.

EC and CS discuss noting the differences between the old and new drafts of the plan and being able to speak to them for the community.

WR states we will need a working meeting to do the bulk of edits to the plan. EC suggests a long duration working meeting.

EC states that Melissa Boutin (MB) should request data from school and to Marie Prescott bc she is their clerk also.

1. Library Capital Grant project
	1. As there was no Internet in the meeting, the PC was unable to open the webpage with the Library Capital Grant project Questionnaire. EC requests motion to allow her to complete the project with working with the state’s permit navigator and the architect to provide the information requested before the deadline. EC states we have Wastewater, Stormwater, and Wetlands permits that will have to be updated by dates, but that we already have them in hand to be submitted. **WR motions** to have EC to do what is necessary to complete whatever is needed to complete or to consult with the engineers as necessary to provide the most accurate information possible to get our grant application to the top of the pile. **CS seconds. All in favor. No discussion. Motion Passed.**
2. Congressionally Directed Spending:
	1. CS states that Rep. Balint is not on the same types of committees as the other senators. She is on committees that oversee only specific programmatic funding. The webpages for the other senators had more general open funding options, whereas Rep. Balint’s office did not. WR questions what the committees she was on. CS could not pull up the references due to the internet and stated her specific committees are listed on her website.
	2. We have not otherwise heard updates on Congressional Directed Spending requests to Senator Sanders or Senator Welch.
	3. No bylaw discussion.
	4. No capital budget update.
	5. Other meeting attendance:
		1. CS attended the Grants Workshop with VLCT. CS suggested PC members log into the VLCT website for access to great training. CS stated the ladies, Katie Buckley, the Federal Funding Assistance Program Director and Bonnie Wenanger as the Program Specialist, were great at finding money and would be invaluable resources for us. CS suggested the possibility of working with the industrial areas with brownfield grants further down the line for development.
		2. CS also stated the Local Motion webinar series is on their own website for Spring Courses. EC stated they were specifically around safe routes to schools which could be an interesting thing to develop with the library capital project. WR stated they would love to see the municipal town center included as part of a community economic development plan for the whole area. Discussion of the need for sidewalks ensued.
	6. Administrative Recap
		1. WR to work with Greta on getting updates.
		2. EC to make list of Town Plan Drafting feedback into shared document.
	7. Review and Approve Prior Minutes
		1. CS abstained due to absence from prior meeting.
		2. **EC motions** to approve Minutes WITH CORRECTIONS/AS AMENDED and tasks for MB. **WR seconded. SG voted YAY. CS abstained. Motion Passed**
		3. **Motion to Adjourn** by CS at 7:43PM, **Seconded by SG**. **All in favor. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.**