

Mendon Planning Commission Minutes (Draft) **September 15, 2020**

Present: Fred Bagley, Justin Lindholm, Gary Sihler and Teri Corsones were present via a “Go to Meeting” platform, provided in conjunction with the State of Emergency that Governor Scott has declared, specifically Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, that authorize public bodies to meet electronically.

Instructions for accessing the meeting were on the Town of Mendon’s website. A mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there were problems with access was provided in the form of the following email address: mendonclerk@comcast.net.

There were no hearings noticed for September 15, 2020. (The meeting date was first re-scheduled from September 7 – the first Monday of the month – because of a conflict with the Labor Day holiday, to September 14. The meeting was then re-scheduled a second time to September 15, because of a conflict with another meeting scheduled on the “Go To Meeting” platform on September 14.)

Inasmuch as there was no MPC meeting in August, there were no draft minutes to approve.

MPG Consortium Application: Amanda O’Connor of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) contacted the MPC and the Mendon Select Board about a concept for a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Consortium Application that would support the scoping and development of an interactive map of the Rutland Region. The map would organize information and data on: biking and hiking trails, downtowns, village centers, historical points of interest, museums, art studios and possibly more, as the scoping work would determine. Amanda indicated that the greater end goal would be to actively support tourism within the region through better information accessibility supported by the proposed “Be a Local Tourist” program.

Amanda asked whether the MPC and the Select Board would support Mendon being included as a partner municipality in the application. In answer to preliminary questions about the project, she indicated that no funding will be asked of Mendon, and the RRPC will provide any matching funds that the MPG requires.

As a partner municipality, Mendon would have the ability to feed into the project development, including a website that the RRPC would have the responsibility of maintaining. Mendon's website could link to the regional one. So far, Brandon, Middletown Springs, West Haven and Danby have expressed interest in joining the consortium.

Members discussed the fact that the project is in keeping with planning that had been discussed preliminarily with the Mendon Economic Development Committee, especially in terms of highlighting recreational opportunities in Mendon. Gary made a motion to approve Mendon participating as a partner municipality in the MPG Consortium Application and Fred seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mendon Town Plan: Teri indicated that the Mendon Town Plan is on the agenda for a RRPC Community Committee meeting and for review and vote of the full RRPC on September 15 at 6:00 pm. She will connect to the meeting and will report back on the outcome of the vote.

Future MPC Projects: Members discussed next projects for the MPC, now that the Town Plan process is nearing completion. It was suggested that members review the Mendon Zoning Regulations for consistency with the newly updated Town Plan. Teri will check with the RRPC as to whether it is willing to review the current Zoning Regulations (adopted March 2, 2010) and recommend where updates might be helpful. She will also gather additional information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of an Enhanced Energy Plan before the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Mendon Planning Commission is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at the Mendon Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Corsones