

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE  
TOWN PLAN HEARING**

**Tuesday, December 14, 2021 5:30pm, Town Hall and Via Zoom**

Meeting called to order at 5:37pm.

**Present:** Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Dylan Kelley, Brenda Field, Rudi Ruddell, John Echeverria, Todd Tyson, Betsy Gaiser, Aileen Lem, Betsy Race, Kevin Geiger, Laura Ginsburg, Liz York, Anita Abbot, Meghan Asbury, Janet Zug, Michael Sacca, Nancy Chapman, Johnathan Bicknell, Charles Emmons, P2 Environmental, Kim's iPad, Matthew Lerch, Ellen Hosford, Maureen McCullough, Fern Strong, Patricia Rogers, George White

Gary Mullen opens up the meeting by stating we are here to have a discussion of the Town Plan which is up for approval during the Selectboard meeting following.

Todd Tyson- Questions the timeline of the Town Plan. Cilley answers as well as Ginsburg. Tyson reads from previous minutes of other Selectboard meetings regarding policies and previous drafts of the Town Plan. The current edit for the Town Plan that is to be voted on includes language regarding a "town policy". He does not feel that this is what Tunbridge wants. Tyson wants the Selectboard to vote on the previous edit presented in December of 2020.

John Echeverria- Bicycle traffic is much worse now than it was previously. He is wanting to look at alternative trails. If we can't it is going to be a long process. He states he doesn't believe it is legal to do construction on landowners land to promote bicycles without his consent. Echeverria and Bicknell will walk his land this weekend to look for alternative routes.

John O'Brien- Hoes does VAST work with landowners? Echeverria states that it is an annual agreement which includes cooperation and the VAST users are very grateful to be using the property. Knows it's not a right. If there are improvements that need to be made or the trail needs to get moved VAST and the landowners come together to figure out the best outcome for everyone. They get a permission slip to use the property. Todd Tyson interjects that bicycles have never had to have a permission slip previously.

Laura Ginsburg- Reads a quote from Paul Gillies regarding the town being allowed to do work on trails. O'Brien asks if Gillies sheds light on if a town can do improvements without the consent of a landowner. Ginsburg reads that Gillies states "should be a collaborative efforts between landowners and town."

Ellen Hosford- Asks if there is anything in this plan that if approved will stop this back and forth discussion regarding town trails. Mullen states no.

Betsy Gaiser- Requests that the Selectboard approve the transmittal draft. She believe the current edits in this document weaken the Town Plan as a whole. Strongly requests that the Selectboard approve the previous draft from December 10, 2020.

Brenda Field- Changes have been made to the current Town Plan we are voting on which regard the updates to the Wetlands on the trails. For the sake of the town, Field encourages us to accept the current draft.

Betsy Gaiser- These trails have been in use for more than 200 years for all different kinds of transportation. They connect communities.

Janet Zug- Is in favor of keeping the trails open as they have been.

George White- It's not as difficult as we are making it. These trails have been open for 200 years. Wetlands are a rouse. This is causing unnecessary bad blood. They need to be addressed, yes and work arounds for trails should also be addressed.

Todd Tyson- the Wetlands on Orchard Road probably don't need a permit. Unknown work arounds can be expensive.

Michael Sacca- the Commissioner for Two Rivers Regional Commission wants the Selectboard to stay in sync with the regional plan. Reads a line from the Regional Plan and quotes Peter Gregory.

John O'Brien- What is the concern with the amended language?

Betsy Gaiser- It is too vague, it could be considered open to all types of transportation. Wants it to be more specific.

O'Brien asks Ginsburg if it can be updated once it's approved. Ginsburg states it would have to go through the same type of warning, hearing and adoption.

Kevin Geiger- The Town Plan lives for 8 years and the Planning Commission could edit it within 8 years if they wanted to. The Two Rivers staff does not think this change in the Town Plan goes against the Regional Plan.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. All aye. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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John O'Brien, Clerk