

Tunbridge Planning Commission

1/19/22

PC present – Laura, Janet, Brenda, Amy, Rudi

Public – Jonathan Bicknell, Maureen McCullough, Ellen Hosford, Todd Tyson, John Echeverria, Cal Heminway

Agenda:

Called to order 6:32

- Public comment - none
- welcome new member Amy Frost
- update from Jonathan Bicknell re: trails committee
 - Selectboard charge to meet with other recreational groups for vision of use of town land (public and private)
 - Provided response to legal trails guidance
 - Committee structure and if original charge is still relevant
- update after Selectboard discussion of Legal Trail #4 and new trail scouting for Orchard Road
 - LT #4 – continued misuse of trail and trespass off trail onto private property has led landowners to approach Selectboard to remove trail as a public right of way
 - Orchard Road – new trail would connect Orchard and Morrill in a way that bypasses houses, may be difficult to implement given soil types (Cabot), 6 stream crossings, and 2 wetland crossings but will need additional input before final decision making
 - Need to do additional planning with natural resource (overall resource assessment) and trails experts to understand cost, permitting, wetlands regulations
 - Vote – letter to Selectboard to support planning needs of Orchard Road trail, including resource assessment and trail planning. Brenda – motion, Rudi – 2nd
 - Unanimous support from PC members present
 - Rudi will draft with support from Laura
 - Share with landowners prior to going to Selectboard
- Topics to cover in months ahead
 - Todd Tyson – TRORC senior planner Steven Bauer interested in working with towns who are focusing on energy, federal funds available for energy projects – siting, thermal, insulation, etc. Todd has asked him to join PC meeting on 2/16/22.

- Rudi clarification – town plan has three sections with substantial statutory requirements for inclusion in Town Plan (energy, forest fragmentation, and flood resiliency), Planning Commission should read beforehand
 - Brenda – has been working on back up power for Town Hall as emergency center; Green Mountain Power doing experiment with small town energy independence
- February – energy – TRORC Steven Bauer, Jim Merriam – update on Belknap solar project, GMP rep
- March – Michael Sacca/downtown, Act 250 changes
- April – Forest fragmentation
- May – flood resiliency
- June – Agricultural update – Hoyt Farm update, connect with larger farms
- Other business
 - John – Baptist Hill trail impacted by fencing and waterlines being installed, proposal to Selectboard in next meeting

Motion to adjourn 7:40