

Craftsbury Planning Commission Draft Minutes of November 15, 2023 Meeting

Present: David Koschak, Rudy Chase, Lucas Shulz, Gordy Waterhouse, David Rowell, Reed Holden, Ross Davis, Alison Blaney, Susie Houston, Alison Low (NVDA), Sterling College Land Use Planning Class

Meeting called to order by Farley Brown at 7:04

1. Motion to approve October 18, 2023 Minutes approved by David Rowell, seconded by Alison Blaney. Approved.
2. Department of Environmental Conservation and Flood-Plain Buy-Outs:
 - a. Gordy will try to attend the webinar 11/16 at 9:00 AM via Zoom to discuss buy-outs and flood resilience.
 - b. Farley and Gordy will remain in touch on this subject, and other opportunities for information will be listed on www.floodready.vermont.gov.
 - c. Alison Low will confirm with Sacha Pealer that there are individuals in Craftsbury who are interested in buy-outs, and what next steps may be.
3. Coburn Hill Woods Walk Debrief:
 - a. The walk aimed to show residents that Craftsbury has large tracts of public land, and to highlight that land's ecological significance.
 - b. Multiple generations were represented at the walk.
4. Next Steps in the Planning Process:
 - a. Work plan includes a Community Values Mapping Workshop. Date TBD. The purpose will be to provide an overview on conservation efforts in Craftsbury, understand changes to the Town Plan in relation to Act 171, and establish a shared set of values.
 - b. The Conservation Commission has already started some of this work and has identified the town's assets to take into consideration for future projects.
 - c. Partnership with the Selectboard will be important in this process.
 - d. Gordy raises questions about the purchase of large tracts of land for carbon credits.
 - e. Rudy raises questions about the enforceability and effectiveness of policy statements; Gordy asks at what point we need legal counsel to ensure that the policy statements we craft will be effective. Alison Low suggests we bring draft policy statements to the Act 250 District 7 Coordinator, Kirsten Sultan.
 - f. Another workshop on Town Planning Tools is budgeted using the Municipal Planning Grant.
 - g. Susie suggests that the Affordable Housing Forum be a valuable partner in this conversation as well.
 - h. Alison Low will reach out to Jens Hilke about facilitating the Community Values Mapping workshop.
 - i. Farley suggests the third week of January as a target date for the Community Values Mapping; consider an earlier meeting with food or a Saturday morning.

The next woods walk will take place in February, and the Town Planning Tools workshop in March.

- j. Farley proposes we meet December 13th (instead of the 20th) to plan for the Community Values Mapping exercise in January.
 - k. Dave Stoner from the Affordable Housing Committee wants to meet with the Planning Commission.
5. Rudy Chase thanks the Sterling students and Alison Low for attending.
 6. No other business. Motion to adjourn by Alison Blaney 8:26, seconded by Lucas Shultz.

Next meeting is December 13th, 2023 at 7:00 PM.