

Planning Commission completes revised draft of Town Plan; welcomes new commissioners

Last November, the Selectboard sent the draft Town Plan back to the Planning Commission with suggestions, comments, and proposed revisions. Starting in early January, the Commission met every two weeks to consider the Selectboard's proposed changes in a series of workshops open to the public. Much of the work focused on the Land Use chapter, which had garnered the most attention at the Selectboard's hearings last summer and fall. The most controversial provision in that chapter, the 27-acre minimum density requirement in the Conservation District, was eliminated and many other smaller revisions were made. Thanks to public comment and the hard work of the Selectboard, the Land Use chapter now more clearly and accurately expresses the Town's goals. This is true for the other chapters as well.

On April 6, the Planning Commission voted to adopt the revised version of the Draft Town Plan. This version was the subject of a Planning Commission Hearing held on May 4th. Subsequent to that hearing, the revised Draft Plan was sent to the Selectboard for approval. The Selectboard is scheduled to hold its Public Hearing on the revised Draft Plan on June 9th at 7 pm.

The Planning Commission appreciates those who took the time during the winter and spring to participate in the revision process. Your input helped strengthen the Draft Plan. Although a town plan that makes everyone happy is likely unattainable, we think the hard work has been done to make the revised Draft Plan a document that will serve the Town well over the next 5-10 years.

The Planning Commission is pleased to welcome three new members: Matthew Hoffman, Debra Forrett, and Steven Glabach. Matthew and Deb joined the Commission in January, and Steve came on in April after former Commissioner Bob Wainwright's term ended. Thank you to Bob for his commitment and contributions to the Commission, and we look forward to all the good work to be done by the new Commissioners in the years ahead!

The Planning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 pm (it used to be 5 pm) in the Town Offices and we hope you will drop by to see how we are doing.