

WATERBURY PLANNING COMMISSION
Approved Minutes
Monday, August 26, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Planning Commission: Martha Staskus, Dana Allen, Robbie Adler, Billy Vigdor.
Staff: Neal Leitner
Public in attendance: M. Pegeen, Sam Lash, Duncan McDougall, Doug Greason

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the municipal offices at 28 N. Main Street.

AGENDA REVIEW AND MODIFICATIONS

No modifications were made to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

No comments from the general public were made at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Billy Vigdor moved to approve the August 12, 2024 minutes, as amended, and it was seconded by Robbie Adler. Those minutes were approved, as amended, by a 4-0 vote.

DISCUSSION OF ENERGY CHAPTER WITH SAM LASH, CVRPC & DUNCAN MCDOUGALL, WATERBURY LEAP

The PC welcomed Sam Lash, Climate and Energy Planner, and Duncan McDougall from Waterbury LEAP to discuss the Energy Chapter in the Town Plan Update. The current energy chapter is from 2013 and has not been updated since the “Enhanced” Energy Chapter became part of the Public Utility Commission’s (PUC) process of substantial deference. If a town has an Enhanced Energy Plan, it can have a greater say over where renewable energy developments are sited and ultimately installed.

Duncan McDougall from Waterbury LEAP spoke about the draft renewable energy plan that LEAP prepared. It has measurable improvements that can be used in the Energy Chapter. The town can identify criteria for siting energy projects which can provide the town substantial deference with the PUC when renewable energy plants are proposed.

The discussion centered on “Goals Objectives and Actions” for the Town Plan. Duncan McDougall said LEAP is aiming to have the energy section in final draft form late spring 2025. The PC and Duncan looked forward to the collaborative efforts.

Sam Lash stated that CVRPC will finalize a draft Municipal Energy Use summary report. She went through the draft report and conducted a Q&A with the PC about the data in the report.

DESIGN MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT PROPOSAL

The PC discussed the MPG proposal. Staff informed the PC that the state grant application portal is undergoing an update. Therefore, the grant applications are not yet being accepted. In previous years, November 1st was the deadline. The PC decided that the Goal for writing the MPG proposal is middle of October. They discussed elements that they will ask for in the grant application. The overall Town Plan Update schedule was referenced. Ideas about how to utilize time, potential consultants, interest groups, committees and survey results were discussed.

INVITATION EMAIL FOLLOW-UP

The chair of the PC emailed the invitation emails to all the groups previously identified. So far responses from the Library, Housing Task Force, Conservation Commission, RW, CVRPC and Waterbury LEAP have all said they will provide information for their related chapters. The PC encourages all contacted parties to respond and participate.

8:38 p.m. Adjournment