Community Development Committee
Minutes from meeting: 14 March 2013
Location: WRC Conference Room

Committee present: Roger Turner (Chair), Jane Morano Purdy, Gretchen Havreluk, Jenipher Burnell
Staff present: Susan McMahon and Cullen Meves

Called to order 4:05 pm

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**
   The minutes of 14 February 2013 were approved as written.

2. **Windham Regional Plan – Community Resources Chapter**
   The Committee continued their discussion about the Community Resource chapter of the Windham Regional Plan. They offered the following comments:
   - **Libraries**
     - Remove the discussion about the loss of the regional library. Although it was an important issue at the time it appears to less of an issue now.
     - Need to discuss the evolving role of the library (broadband and gathering place) in our communities and expand on policies
   - **Arts**
     - Discussion about having an Arts Trail like they have in Virginia and North Carolina.
     - Suggested that Robert McBride, Lynn Barrett and Danny Lichtenfeld should be interviewed
     - Need to add and delete arts venues (i.e. Next Stage, Circus Arts, Main Street Arts – add and Saxtons River Playhouse – delete. Perhaps have a sidebar with the list of venues.
     - Add information about Gallery Walk, Open Studios and Art Strolls
     - Add in economic information from the Arts Council of Windham County
   - **Historic Resources**
     - Add in information about historical societies especially Windham County Historical Society
     - List National Register of Historical Districts and Sites and refer to the map.
     - Perhaps National Register of Historic Sites could be added to the map

The Committee began their discussion about the Land Use chapter and offered the following comments:
• The named villages in the plan should be reevaluated and perhaps add West Dummerston and Cambridgeport to the list. Perhaps look to town plans to understand what the municipalities consider as their villages.
• North Westminster is not incorporated anymore
• Discussed resiliency as an issue
• Discussed the need for solid waste and water facilities as a land use issue that limits redevelopment in villages
• Issue – how do we encourage people to live in downtowns and villages when the regional profile showed the reverse is happening
• Issue – working lands (forestry and agriculture)

The Committee stopped before section 3.4 and will complete the discussion of the land use chapter at the April meeting.

3. Request for letter in Support from the Town of Wilmington
S. McMahon explained that the Town of Wilmington has asked for a letter in support for their application for a Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Planning Grant for fire and police facilities relocation. Jane Morano Purdy made a motion to direct staff to write the letter of support for the Town of Wilmington’s VCDP Planning Grant application for fire and police facilities relocation. Jenepher Burnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Update and Announcements in Topic Areas
   - Brownfields: S. McMahon discussed that the Brownfields Cleanup RLF program approved its first loan/grant combination. Two more requests for RLF funds are about to be considered.
   - Housing
   - Cultural and Historic
   - Infrastructure
   - Recreation
   - Economic/Community Development: S. McMahon updated the Committee that a press event with Senator Leahy to discuss EDA and CDBG Disaster Recovery Grants.
   - Education
   - Human Services

5. Other Business/Next Meeting
Next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2013 and the Committee will continue its review of the Windham Regional Plan.
Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.