

## Land Use Subcommittee meeting 9/21/23 6:30 pm **Draft Minutes**

Members present : Stuart Richards, Ernie Ciccotelli, Bob Pape

Public in attendance: Barbara Landau, Robert Gere, Linda Gray, Jack Cushman, Frances Mize, [?]

### **1 Agenda**

Pape requested item 8 (Richards resignation) be commented on or addressed earlier in the meeting. Richards said he was unable to continue to with the subcommittee because time requirements. He would resign effective the end of the meeting.

Agenda approved 3-0

### **2 Public Comment –**

Members of the public questioned Richards inclusion of articles related to the climate crisis in the packet for item 3 of the agenda.

Jack Cushman specifically requested the committee refuse to accept the World Climate Declaration “There is no Climate Emergency” by the Global Climate Intelligence Group, and the Epoch Times climate article. He said the town has voted overwhelmingly to recognize the importance of the climate crisis in town plans. He also stated the GCIG declaration has been debunked repeatedly. He provided paper copies of several references and requested that, if the articles in the packet remained in the public record, he be allowed to include a large stack of scientific articles related to climate change which he had brought to the meeting. Richards requested the articles be sent via email. [We did not clarify the proper address to send email to be included in the meeting packet]

### **3 Correspondence-**

Richards stated that he would not say he agreed or disagreed with the items submitted in correspondence, and he was including the World Climate Declaration and the Epoch Times article to provide another point of view as to whether or not there really is a climate crisis, as it factors into town planning.

Pape reviewed a number of items in the World Climate Declaration and the Epoch Times climate article which he said were unsubstantiated, disagreed with established science, or were leaps of logic. He said the articles from Richards did not show any scientific disagreement about whether or not climate change existed, but scientific agreement vs unsubstantiated opinion.

There was discussion regarding whether correspondence could or should be 'accepted' or 'not accepted' – at least one person (Robert Gere?) said the Select Board can vote to accept/reject correspondence in their meetings

Final motion to accept correspondence failed (Richards –yes; Ciccotelli, Pape – no)

#### **4 Status of Word version of existing Town Plan –**

Pape said given the original Word document of the current Town Plan is still unavailable, we are using a PDF to word conversion which has some capitalization, font, and formatting issues, but is editable.

#### **5 Review of edits**

Ciccotelli stated he would like to add a section defining sustainability with respect to the Town Plan to Section 1 (introduction).

Barbara Landau noted the introduction could be more forward looking. The plan should spell out how it would deal with/adjust to things such as the possible increase in population (especially given likely movement of people from areas more affected by climate change,) the current shortage in housing, and flood preparedness.

Linda Gray provided links to the Vermont Dept of Public Service's Guidance for Enhanced Energy Planning Standards.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm

Next meeting: TBD

Minutes prepared by Bob Pape