

Townshend Planning Commission

Minutes

February 26, 2025

Present: Bob DeSiervo, Rick Matschke, Doug Ballantine, Liza Martin and Andrew Snelling.

Members of the Public: Anand Fedele from Windham Regional Commission (WRC)

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair DeSiervo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. **Additions and Deletions:** none
3. **Members of the Public:** Anand Fedele will present under the Town Plan item on the agenda.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Ballantine moved and Matschke seconded a motion to approve the minutes of special meeting of January 29, 2025 as submitted. The motion passed.
5. **Correspondence:** none
6. **Old Business:**

Town Plan: Snelling noted that the work on the energy section has been based on the draft energy element and that it needs to be integrated with the existing town plan energy chapter. He went on to point out that the energy chapter contains language concerning appropriate alternative energy generation for Townshend and siting criteria for both solar and wind. Anand Fedele stated that much of that language could be inserted into the draft to provide the consistency with old plan and further explanation of the towns approach to alternative energy siting.

Anand Fedele explained a change to the how WRC was implementing the State's regional energy targets into local plans. The new approach will recognize that the Windham Regional area exceeds the State's targets and not directly allocate the energy generation targets to individual towns.

There was a discussion on the status of the town plan work and the need to allow time for the required town hearings and hearings by WRC leading up to formal adoption of an updated town plan and included compliant energy chapter.

The revised housing chapter was presented by Anand Fedele. He pointed out that there was a lot of data but that the chapter needed more descriptive language to provide context. The Commission examined the data and discussed how to interpret it. There were questions on how the housing affordability was calculated and also how the Valley Villages units affected the numbers. The discussion also compared the data with the surrounding towns for a more regional perspective.

Town Hall: DeSiervo mentioned that the Architect had located a door contractor that had a good solution for the automatic operators with the narrow door leaves. Snelling pointed out that

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the Select Board had failed to pass the motion approving the Planning Commission to release the RFP to get contractor quotes on the work. He suggested taking the matter up again with the Select Board after Town Meeting.

7. New Business: none

Meeting Schedule: Regular Meeting: March 12, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting: March 26, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Vice Chair DeSiervo, seeing no further business to come before the Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Snelling