

Townshend Planning Commission
Minutes
June 25, 2025

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

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Ballantine called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
2. **Additions and Deletions:** none
3. **Members of the Public:** none
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Ballantine moved and Matschke seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of June 11, 2025 and special meeting of June 16, 2025 as submitted. The motion passed.
5. **Correspondence:** Snelling called attention to the draft Hazardous Mitigation Plan that was recently circulated for comments.
6. **Old Business:**

Town Hall Door Operator Bid: Snelling & Matschke reported on the presentation of the Door Control proposal to the Select Board. The Select Board is interested in retaining the key pad lock and wants to know the cost associated with that option. They also would like to see a formal quote on the electrical work and to have the Door Control Bid show a single total including all desired options. Matschke stated that he would be talking to Door Control Inc. and getting the requested additional information.

DeSiervo brought up that security has become more important in current times and that many municipalities are controlling building access with screening. He suggested that all visitors could be directed to the main entrance and viewed by camera and then have the Town Clerk use a remote button to unlock the doors. The idea was discussed, with no action taken.

Harmonyville Sidewalk Study: Martin observed that the project hadn't been implemented in part because of the high projected cost. She noted that the stretch of road could be safer with the addition of warning signs and road markings at a minimal cost.

Town Plan Review: Snelling stated his concern about getting the plan complete and that we should look at some additional meeting times. It was agreed to discuss additional special meetings based on the progress made tonight.

Snelling presented the rewrite of the Forest Lands section incorporating data from the conservation map. The revised section was accepted with some minor modifications.

The Commission took up the review of the draft starting with the Energy section. It was suggested that Scenic resources were mentioned in multiple places and should be consistent. Snelling proposed that the set-backs for ground based solar arrays be in

Approved July 9, 2025

line with the state rules in VSA 30 § 248(s). He will research for discussion next meeting. The preferred solar location criteria were discussed, specifically the preference for “town owned land.” No changes were made. It was noted that siting guidelines for Solar and Wind generation projects are jumbled up and need to be separated out. The Commission reviewed the draft up to the Wind Energy Tower Policies section.

7. New Business: none

Meeting Schedule: It was discussed and agreed by consensus that progress was faster through the energy section but a special meeting should be scheduled for Tuesday July 1st at 5:30 p.m.

Special Meeting: July 1, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting: July 9, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment: DeSiervo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ballantine. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Snelling