

**Townshend Planning Commission**  
**Town Plan Hearing**  
**Record**  
**August 7, 2025**

**Present:**

Bob DeSiervo, Liza Martin, and Andrew Snelling.  
Mike McConnell, WRC, and Craig Hunt

Planning Commission Chair DeSiervo opened the hearing on the draft Town Plan at 5:30 p.m.

Snelling welcomed everyone and stated that the purpose of the hearing is to solicit input, comments and questions from members of the public, neighboring towns and other interested parties to comment on the draft Townshend Town Plan, which is proposed to replace the existing Town Plan which expires on September 26, 2025. He went on to state that prior to the hearing the Commission has received six comments.

- 1) Rick Hege pointed out that on page 1 of the Table of Contents for “Townshend U.S. Census Year 2010” should be changed to 2020.
- 2) Craig Hunt noted that the Conservation map key has a section for public lands, but that Town owned lands are not shown on the map.
- 3) Snelling observed that on page 80 the amounts of the payments received in lieu of Taxes and the acreage for the Townshend State Forest and Townshend Dam were incorrect and needed to be corrected.
- 4) Matt Bachler, WRC, suggested the Commission incorporate reference to the Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan, Route 30 Corridor Plan and the draft ANR Basin 11 plan. He noted that these are not statute requirements but only recommendations.
- 5) Craig Hunt called attention to a misspelling of “Implementing” on page 87
- 6) DeSiervo questioned if the language of the response to Goal 4 on page 84 was consistent with the stated policy section.

Snelling called for any additional questions or comments. Craig Hunt congratulated and thanked the Planning Commission for their multi-year effort in updating the Town Plan.

Snelling next walked through the background information on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) related to the Townshend Dam and the State land in Townshend. He reviewed the acreage of each and the payments received in the last year. He commented that both the Federal and State government break down the payments between land and improvements. The State of Vermont pays Townshend \$5,565 on behalf of the Connecticut River Flood Control Commission, but the Federal government pays an additional \$3,489 for the improvements including the ACOE offices. The State similarly paid in 2024, \$8,290 for the three parcels totaling 1,244 acres that make up the Townshend State Forest. However, the State also paid the Town \$20,632 for improvements. The improvements included the structures in the State Park, but 94% of the payment is for the State-owned Scott Bridge. A discussion followed.

There being no further comments or questions on the draft Town Plan, the hearing was closed at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Snelling