

PC Members: Rob Litch, Chair, Benjamin (Benj) Putnam, V.Chair, Bev Landon, Dan Monger, and Pat Palmer

Others: John Madden, Susan Smiley, John Travis, Taborri Bruhl, James Walsh, and Chris Granstrom
ACRPC Governance Committee and Staff: Claire Tebbs, Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Mary Anne Sullivan, Jamie Dayton, Shannon Haggett, and Ted Davis
New Haven **PC Staff:** Dave Wetmore

Rob called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Dave Wetmore took minutes. The agenda was posted.

I. ACRPC Governance Committee and Staff public hearing on New Haven Town Plan
ACRPC committee chair Shannon Haggitt- Introduced committee and the purpose of the hearing. He also made note that the committee and regional staff had not reviewed the energy section of the Plan as the AC Regional Plan has not been updated to allow that review. The Department of Public Service will be completing that review.

The Governance Committee asked, received and made numerous comments and questions directed toward the Town Plan and Planning Commission regarding village designation, public participation, school population decline, regional approval process, quality of cited data and maps and flood resiliency elements.

Staff Planner Claire Tebbs made it clear that New Haven's Town Plan included all the necessary elements of a Plan as outlined in 24 VSA §4382. Reference was made to the ACRPC review of the NH Town Plan dated 4/11/2017. As noted the flood resiliency element is not clearly laid out and recommended that future amendments include clear policies and resource maps focusing on New Haven's water resources and or flood mitigation. The Report notes the following points;

1. "Table of Content's" page numbers are not correct.
2. Difficult to identify specific goals, policies and recommendations for each element, preferable to locate at the beginning or end of each elements discussion.
3. Plan format and type should be consistent.
4. Improved graphics and map resolution. Due to the poor quality of some resources, viewing is difficult,

Discussion points-

Village designation- Will this be renewed? If so the Plan needs a map clearly indicating where the Village designation is. Dave Wetmore responded that the Town is planning to renew or reapply for the VD and that there should be a map outlining the VD. Claire noted that the designations expire with the Plan.

What types of public participation activities were undertaken to assist with the Plans development? The PC conducted a written survey, held a planning forum and numerous meetings were dedicated to renewable energy discussions.

School declining populations- Student populations are down and yet growth is increasing slightly. Governance Committee expressed that this sliding demographics is a concern. It was noted that New Haven did vote, along with the other 5 towns in the district to consolidate. Voters strongly support Beeman.

Is regional review and approval required- Yes, if the Town is requesting State funded grants.

Next steps- The Governance committee will report to the full ACRPC on Wednesday night. All mandatory Plan elements are included in New Haven's Plan. The committee will discuss and likely recommend regional approval for New Havens Town Plan.

Hearing concluded 7:30 PM

II. Adjustments to Agenda/Visitor: -

1. **Adjustments- none**
2. **Visitors' Business:**

Chris Granstrom-

Chris is here to once again to support the concept of a value added agricultural business standard. Chris shared that his business is example "A" of a value added agricultural business. His business needed to get people in the door to be successful. It was not his grand plan to create an event venue, but expressed that his business fills a need for local folks. In doing so he has kept his land in productive agriculture while promoting tourism and offering good wages to his employees. Sarah created the "Middlebury Tasting Trail" and he continues to be part of that.

Chris shared that small businesses and agriculture are a nice mix providing economic and social benefits to New Haven. His efforts to add value to his products through marketing has been quite successful which allows them 3 full-time employees and many part timers. 99% of the revenue generated from his business is grown on site. Their evening events are limited and do not include weddings. Their events conclude by 8:00 PM in an effort to be good neighbors to the surrounding residents. They would be very concerned if there were complaints. Their location does not lend themselves to late night venues. Chris supports the PC'S efforts to include the Farm and Forest Business standard amendment to the Bylaws. He does have concern about the provision for no more than 10 outdoor events/30 people. The standard does not really ensure that a venue would not cause negative impacts on the area.

Benj. discussed the DRB review process and whether the standard should rely on the DRB to determine appropriateness or whether standards would ensure consistency of implementation. Each approach has its merits.

Bev- expressed that often business owners are victims of their own success. Dave agreed that folks need to recognize when they outgrow their location. Benj noted that having a cap that can be measured would help to avoid conflicts.

Taborri- Asked if the Towns rules have been too restrictive. No, but sometimes agricultural businesses expand beyond that allowed by the "Required Ag Practices". Thus the need for this expanded agricultural business standard.

Jim W.- Expressed that limits are important, i.e. parking. Some business properties simply can't support the

traffic a venue might create, and further that their location might significantly affect the neighboring properties.

Sam and Maura Lester email- concerns related to signage- briefly discussed, PC agreed to consider.

II. PC BUSINESS

1. **Bylaw Updates-** Dave referred to Brandy email of May 5th. She is willing to continue work on Bylaw updates beginning in June if the PC can wait. **PC agreed to wait and look forward to working with her.**
2. **Energy Updates-** Gas is flowing through the transmission line. Jim reported that the Town has received \$50,000 from VT Gas for gas utility improvements to Town Hall and Beeman. Because of the school consolidation this would reduce direct benefit to New Haven. Additionally, the Town received \$40,000 for damage to New Haven roads from last summer's construction. Goal is to have distribution line installed in New Haven this year to the Bristol Town line.
3. **PC Clerk-** PC asked Dave to re-publish clerk position in newsletter and FPF.
4. **PC member vacancy-** still down 1 member. Beverly has committed to a 3 year term.

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. 3/13/2017- Bev moved to approve as presented, 2nd Benj. Approved 4-yes, 0-no, Pat abstained
2. 4/10/2017- Benj moved to approve as presented, 2nd Pat. Approved 5-yes, 0-no.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE-

- 4/27/2017- John Madden letter to Public Service Board
- 5/2/2017-John Madden letter to ACRPC
- 5/3/2017- Sam and Maura Lester email

V. OTHER - NEXT MEETING- June 12th, 2017- Agenda-

VI. ADJOURNMENT- Pat moved to adjourn at 8:40, Beverly 2nds. Approved, 5 yes, 0 no.

Approved on: 6/12/2017

Rob Litch



Dan Monger



Pat Palmer



Beverly Landon



Benj Putnam