

Worcester Planning Commission
MINUTES
March 18, 2025, 5:30pm
Town Hall and ZOOM

Attending: Chani Waterhouse, Bill Arrand, Will Baker, Rebecca Heintz, Amy Thornton, Toni Kaeding

Housekeeping

- Chani called the meeting to order at 6:01pm
- Chani suggested deferring discussion of Town Plan goals to June meeting
- Minutes of 3.18.25 Planning Commission meeting were duly approved by motion/unanimous vote and filed on Worcester Town website.

Public Comment

Chani reported that Kathleen Bookchin had approached her about the possibility of crosswalks on Rte 12 and Calais Road. Some discussion.

ACTION:

- Chani to explore with Selectboard.

Update on Trail Development (temporarily the North Putnamville Trail)

Support for recreational trail development is an action item in Part 4: Town Services of the Town Plan. Toni reported that on May 4, members of Worcester's Recreational Committee met with members of Middlesex's Trail Committee to hike a possible extension (~2 miles) of the Ellis-Bruce Trail from Worcester to Middlesex, potentially ending at Wrightsville Reservoir. This was a purely "scouting venture" and no landowners were contacted. Two potential pathways were identified as possibilities, depending to a large degree upon landowner participation.

ACTIONS:

- Development of topo maps that allows terrain assessment (steepness) and landowner parcels – Greg LaBarthe/Toni
- Confer with Tom Blachly (Calais Trails) re: possible collaboration around trail development – Toni
- Contact new Wrightsville Reservoir manager to discuss possible terminus – Kim Hagen

Update of Planning Commission Bylaws

Chani led a review of current Bylaws seeking updated info and clarifying language. Final review and adoption of Bylaws planned for June meeting.

ACTION:

- Will to identify and provide citations for select language in Bylaws

Energy Planning

Chani reported on Community Meeting (April 14). Roughly 50 in attendance with 75 survey responses. Spirited discussion on several topics such as e-cars (including Town vehicles), hydro opportunities, social infrastructure's influence on transportation, "preferred" renewable site locations, and energy politics. Rebecca advised tone sensitivity in energy discussion as the move to renewables is costly and often a threat to existing cultural norms.

Town Plan Energy Goals – discussion tabled to June meeting

Chani led a review of the draft Enhanced Energy Plan. Group offered comments, questions, and suggested language/tone – particularly around the economic threat of renewability. Complete review of Plan awaits promised data from CVRPC.

ACTION:

- Chani will continue to contact Sam Lash re: promised data

Establishment of Worcester Planning Commission (seeking origin/legitimacy)

ACTION:

- Bill to research origin of WPC with CVRPC

Adjournment and Next Meeting

A motion to adjourn was duly made, seconded and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Next meeting: June 26, 6-7:30pm Town Office

Toni Kaeding
Secretary