

Town of Plymouth Planning Commission  
And Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes

December 4, 2018

The regular meeting of the Plymouth Planning Commission and Plymouth Zoning Board of Adjustment was held at the Plymouth Municipal Building Auditorium. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by acting chairperson Anne Brown.

Board members in attendance were Anne Brown, Lee Kafer, Jay Kullman, and Rick Kaminsky.

The minutes of the November 6, 2018 meeting were approved as written; Jay Kullman made a motion to approve, seconded by Rick Kaminsky.

First item on the agenda was reviewing and approving the town plan chapter on Energy. After some discussion regarding the first item listed under Recommendations: Creation of Energy Committee, Anne Brown stated she would re-work this item to be more relevant to current and future needs.

Under Recommendations # 8, we suggest striking the word sidewalk from the sentence to read: "The Town should pursue recreation paths, bicycle lanes and other Complete Streets projects to reduce local transportation energy use and promote healthy lifestyles", as the only roads in town that are paved are state highways.

Under Recommendations # 9, we suggest adding "when the need arises" to the statement: The town should install electric vehicle charging stations on municipally owned property.

Under Transportation Chapter, we suggest deleting the first sentence of #6 under Policies: "It is the policy of the town to minimize new trips and to support existing transportation facilities."

Under the Health Chapter Introduction, the board suggests in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, striking the word sidewalks and inserting trails. The corrected sentence will read: "Many other elements of the Town Plan also have an impact on health, including preservation of green space, clean water, trails that encourage walking..."

Under Healthy Foods Access the last sentence in the paragraph, "Plymouth residents can purchase groceries at grocery stores in nearby towns" states the obvious and does not need to be written in the Town Plan.

Under Goals, Policies, and Recommendations; In the Best Interest of the Town: the board felt item # 1 raised a good question: How to increase access to healthy foods. Out of this discussion, it was suggested we add to that short, unfocused statement the following: "Increase access to healthy foods by alerting town residents to organizations, such as Black River / Good Neighbors,

local CSA's, the Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition, local Farmers Markets, and encouraging local gardeners to share their overabundance of summer produce with those who do not have access to fresh food" This alert could be posted on the Town web-site and town bulletin boards.

Under the chapter on Housing, under Policies, item # 5, it was noted to strike the word Rochester and insert Plymouth, in the sentence "Work with businesses and non-profit housing corporations to help Plymouth better meet the demands for affordable housing."

Lastly, the issue of abandoned, derelict buildings was discussed. The board suggested adding a statement regarding this issue in both the Land Use and Housing Chapters. In the Land Use Chapter, under Overall Land Use Policies, add a new item # 10: It should be the policy of the Town of Plymouth to discourage any derelict or abandoned buildings, deemed Non-Habitable; the specifics to be addressed in a Zoning Ordinance or through the Board of Health. This policy statement should also be added to the chapter on Housing, under Policies. The item would read the same as above under policy # 6.

Also, noted, regarding Kimberly Gilbert's follow-up email, Item # 3 in third paragraph; the Selectboard has no plans for facility improvements in the near future.

It was agreed by the board that the chapters previously discussed should be ready for the final draft. In addition, going forward, the board would like to send new property owners a copy of the adopted Town Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. by a motion made by Rick Kaminski and seconded by Lee Kafer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Pauley