

Windham Regional Commission
Public Hearing on Windham Town Plan
February 3, 2020

Present:

Maureen Bell, Selectwoman	Peter Chamberlain, Selectman
Vance Bell, Energy Commission	Bob Bingham
Heath Boyer	Dawn Bower, Various Commissions
Joyce Cumming, Selectboard Clerk	Bill Dunkel, Town Planning Commission
Sally Hoover, Auditor	John Hoover, Library Trustee, Justice of Peace
Tom Johnson, Energy Commission	John Bennett, Windham Regional Commission
Marion Major, Windham Regional Commission	

Windham Regional Commission Hearing on Windham Town Plan

John Bennett of Windham Regional Commission welcomed everyone and explained that the WRC Hearing on the Town Plan would include public testimony followed by municipal consultation. He passed around a sign-in sheet.

John appointed himself as Hearing Officer and opened the Public Hearing on Windham Town Plan at 4:34 p.m. He explained the WRC process. Upon receipt of the Town Plan, WRC commissioners are appointed and the plan is reviewed to determine if it meets the required elements. The plan is then reviewed by the full commission. The Planning Coordination Committee makes a recommendation to the WRC re: approval of the plan. If approved by the WRC, the plan will be valid for eight years.

John read the Public Hearing Notice on the Windham Town Plan (see attached) and invited Bill Dunkel to speak as a representative of the Planning Commission. Bill explained the work done by the Planning Commission members including a review of the zoning regulations, revision of the Town Plan to eliminate reference to "ridgelines", and means to achieve energy compliance. Act 171 and Act 174 were taken into consideration in revising the plan. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed Town Plan in November 2019. The Selectboard then held its Public Hearing on the proposed Town Plan in December. Following approval by the Selectboard, the plan was submitted to the Windham Regional Commission.

Following Bill's presentation, John invited public comment. Bob Bingham commended the members of the Planning Commission for their dedication and commitment in developing a plan that will serve Windham well for the next eight years. Bill Dunkel acknowledged the efforts of prior Planning Commission members including Heath Boyer and Bob Bingham in developing the prior plan which provided a strong foundation to build upon.

At the conclusion of public testimony, John conducted the municipal consultation component of the hearing. (See attached Windham Municipal Consultation Report and draft agenda for Consultation Meeting.) WRC will work with Windham on its flood resilience plan to identify fluvial erosion hazard areas, and will provide a template with information on river corridors to be addressed in zoning. Training workshops will be offered by WRC in the spring. Bill would like to develop a flow chart outline of steps residents need to take to comply with zoning regulations; John agreed that it would be useful. John shared information with Bill for dissemination on services available through WRC, i.e., emergency planning, transportation, energy, grants, maps and GIS, etc. Bill acknowledged the valuable assistance provided by the Windham Regional Commission to the Planning Commission during the process of revising the Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Plan. In concluding the hearing, John quipped that the 'High Elevation Resource Protection Overlay Area' designation in the Windham Town Plan, if preceded by the word 'Super', could be referenced by the acronym SHERPA.

Windham Regional Commission
Hearing on Determination of Energy Compliance
February 3, 2020

Present:

Maureen Bell, Selectwoman	Peter Chamberlain, Selectman
Vance Bell, Energy Commission	Bob Bingham
Heath Boyer	Dawn Bower, Various Commissions
Joyce Cumming, Selectboard Clerk	Bill Dunkel, Town Planning Commission
Sally Hoover, Auditor	John Hoover, Library Trustee, Justice of Peace
Tom Johnson, Energy Commission	John Bennett, Windham Regional Commission
Marion Major, Windham Regional Commission	

Windham Regional Commission Hearing on Determination of Energy Compliance

Marion Major of Windham Regional Commission conducted the hearing on Determination of Energy Compliance. She passed around a separate sign-in sheet for this hearing. Marion designated herself as Hearing Officer and opened the Public Hearing on Determination of Energy Compliance at 5:06 p.m. She reviewed the process for review of the Energy Plan and read the Public Hearing Notice on the Determination of Energy Compliance (see attached).

Bill Dunkel offered an informal synopsis of the Energy Plan, as outlined in Chapter 5 of the Town Plan. He thanked the members of the Energy Commission who worked with the Planning Commission on the development of the Energy Plan. Tom Johnson was especially helpful in blending in the language of the new plan with the old.

Marion invited members of the public to offer testimony. Bob Bingham commended the work of both the Energy Commission and the Planning Commission members. Bill noted that the energy targets are ambitious and commented on the challenges in accomplishing energy goals in a town like Windham where bike commuting is not a viable option, public transportation is lacking, and where there is just one (make that two) electric vehicles in town. Maureen pointed out that the Energy Fair is a great way to promote energy-saving options to Windham residents. Results will take time.

Marion and John thanked the members of the Planning Commission and Energy Commission. The hearing was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Cumming
Selectboard Clerk