Tinmouth Planning Commission September 15, 2022 Regular Meeting ~ Minutes

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, Rainbow Squier, Larry Carabeau, Judy Gilmore, and Andy Gilmore

Members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh, Pat Psholka, and Bob Lloyd

Others present: in-person – Ed Bove, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, and Gail Fallar Secretary, and via Zoom Sherry Johnson

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Members reviewed the agenda, all voted in favor.

Minutes of 8/18/22, with the correction of adding and 'a' to "made a list", Bob moved, Larry 2nded, all voted in favor to approve.

Ed spoke about process for updating the Town Plan, noting some data needs to be revised – census, school, etc. He asked for members thoughts about the update.

First was discussion about the energy section. Members posed many questions regarding the data used to create the goals in that section and suggested more accurate data should be collected and used to revise it. Ed advised there is new data being collected, it is in the pipeline – hopes it will be available before this process is finished. Members inquired about getting energy credits for not cutting trees - Tinmouth has many acres of conserved land that include lots of forests. Ed noted that the Town Plan could state that 'Tinmouth is meeting' its goals and quantify that with reference to the amount of carbon the trees are sequestering. There are folks working on that concept – details still be worked out. Ed suggested that the energy section does not have to meet 'enhanced' standards, but after discussion members felt it was better to have it remain. Ed noted very specific in regular energy chapter could be enough should a commercial energy application come before the Public Utility Commission. The PUC could still override the Enhanced Energy Plan.

Michael and Judy suggested definition/glossary to clarify terms i.e. renewable energy, rural, farm, scenic vistas, scenic landscapes, sustainable, etc., specific to this plan.

Members discussed how to proceed with the update? Homework will be for members to review the 2020 Town Plan by chapter by chapter (1&2 for October) for needed updates, areas of concern, and issues that need to be addressed. Ed Bove will review. Kim suggested photos have footnotes of where and what they are. Ed offered to be the 'keeper' of the plan – additions, deletions, etc. Ed will attend every other meeting, suggested less photos and maps, will have Steve Schild, RRPC mapper, take a look at the maps for updates.

Barry Cohen asked for a hearing on his proposed subdivision at the October PC meeting.

Next meeting will be October 20th. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Fallar, Secretary