

BRISTOL PLANNING COMMISSION
Holley Hall
Tuesday, October 15, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M
MINUTES

Planning Commission: Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Bill Brown, Tyler Masters, Robert Rooker, Bill Sayre, Tom Wallace, Kevin Hanson, Lloyd Dike,

Others: Kris Perlee (Zoning Administrator), Andrew L'Roe (ACRPC)

Meeting called to order 7:05PM

The meeting was divided into three segments.

1. Energy Plan

Katie discussed how the PC moves forward on the energy plan. Only three members have accessed the document via Google Docs. It was proposed that in the next meeting or the one after that a hard copy of the Energy Plan would be available to those that want it. Once those hard copies have been distributed the members can comment on the Plan and revisions can be made. The Plan must meet certain criteria. Some of the proposed changes to the language used in the plan may run counter to what the State mandates.

Need to spend time on updating other parts of plan.

Kevin commented that the energy plan was too restrictive in its treatment of fossil fuels. He specifically noted that not allowing natural gas pipeline into Bristol as one of his concerns. He also stated that all alternative energy sources come with premium cost that for many residents could result in financial hardship.

Katie commented that the State's energy initiative has at its core no increase in greenhouse gases.

Rob commented that language changes might vitiate intent of Energy Plan. Furthermore, Rob stated that the Bristol Energy Plan had to be in sync with the State's lowering of fossil fuel use.

Tyler commented that the PC has to decide what we want to say.

Rob - may be we can take some of the language and tweek it. But, that may not be acceptable to the state.

Tom - we have to look at the template for energy that the state published.

Katie - We only have a say concerning energy projects in Bristol if the state approves our plan.

Kevin - If the language prohibits fossil fuels Bristol is opening itself up to litigation.

Bill B. - Climate change is real and we have to take a stand. I am well aware of the sacrifices that people will have to make and the potential for litigation.

Kevin – People are not changing life styles.

Katie - Having this plan is better for Bristol in long-term.

Kris – Why not change the tenor of the Plan to a more promotional viewpoint rather than a prohibitive viewpoint. Go from positive standpoint. Encourage the use of re-newables.

Katie – There is nothing in the existing draft Plan that tells people how to heat their homes.

Straw poll to go forward:

Rob – yes

Tom – move forward, no mandate, aspirational

Kevin - - if doc is neutral, OK. Not for it – without it.

Tyler – good to have plan,

Bill B. – for it, aspirational

Lloyd – good to have a say in things....

Katie – good effort and important. Doc that would benefit everyone.

Rob - - need full input before rewrite.

Andrew - Town has to illustrate how we get to 90/50...pathways – how to achieve it. Still individual choice - - town working for goal.

Andrew will consolidate report with some changes and send to PC.

Kris will send Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plan to PC members.

2. Education

Bill B. presented short overview of education section.

Question from Kevin about cost per student. Amended section to Equalized Pupil.

Other changes were made.

Agreed that some rewrite was appropriate.

Add underutilization of schools and potential closing of schools.

Keep Goals but change to “Bristol will support....”

3. Natural Resource Section

Andrew handed out maps and text for this section

Katie suggested that maps should be integrated within each section of the document.

Tyler added that maps should lead each section for clarity.

Review of Goals, Policies and Actions.

Goals

1. Bill S. to modify first goal. This was done and the committee agreed that this was a reasonable compromise.
2. Bill S. - what is "fragmentation?" Compromise to "discourage fragmentation" and develop in a way that would minimize fragmentation. Andrew read back changes. Tyler added idea of "promoting" these ideas.
3. OK
4. OK

Policies

1-5 OK

Actions

1 -6 OK

Next meeting 11/05/2019

Public hearing

Meeting was closed at 9:17PM