

MUNICIPAL PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

August 28, 2024

In Attendance: Heidi Valenta, Sarah Hadd

Staff: Greta Brunswick, Luke Slomba

The Municipal Plan Review Committee held a remote meeting via Zoom on August 28, 2024. The meeting was opened by S. Hadd at 6:05pm

1. Adjustments to agenda

S. Hadd motioned to adjust item 2 of the agenda to reflect the Montgomery Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by H. Valenta and passed.

2. Public Hearing: Request for Regional Approval of Montgomery Town Plan

a. Final Staff Review

The final staff review had no significant changes from the preliminary review discussed at the December 2023 Plan Review Committee meeting. Staff found that the plan meets all requirements for regional approval.

b. Implementation Assessment

G. Brunswick reviewed the Implementation Assessment prepared by NRPC staff. The assessment noted Montgomery's zoning bylaw update and hazard mitigation study which are currently in progress, as well as the ongoing municipal wastewater project and an ongoing project to address sidewalk and parking issues in Montgomery Center. Montgomery is not interested in adopting a capital budget at this time.

c. Final Plan

H. Valenta brought up the plan's discussion of short term rentals. G. Brunswick noted that the plan previously had a strong statement on short term rental regulation that was removed. L. Slomba noted that a public discussion on short term rental regulations will be part of the zoning bylaw update process in October.

The committee found that Montgomery Town Plan meets all requirements for regional approval. S. Hadd made a motion to recommend to the NRPC Board of Commissioners that the plan receive regional approval and confirmation of planning process, which was seconded by H. Valenta and passed.

3. Final Review Discussion for Alburgh Town Plan

a. Final Staff Review

The final staff review had no significant changes from the preliminary review discussed at the July 2024 Plan Review Committee meeting. A comment recommending further explanation of the graphs and tables in the Education section was carried over to the final review. Staff found that the plan meets all requirements for regional approval.

b. Implementation Assessment

L. Slomba reviewed the Implementation Assessment prepared by NRPC staff. The assessment noted that the town plan survey had mixed results regarding development regulations, and that the town is considering applying for a Municipal Planning Grant to conduct further outreach on development regulations. The assessment also noted the 2019 Village Master Plan and 2022 Recreation Plan which are in stages of implementation. Other ongoing implementation efforts are the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Alburgh Family Clubhouse and ongoing water and wastewater projects. Developing a capital plan is not currently a priority for Alburgh.

c. Plan Draft

The committee found that the Alburgh Town Plan meets all requirements for regional approval. S. Hadd made a motion to recommend to the NRPC Board of Commissioners that the plan receive regional approval and confirmation of planning process assuming no significant changes to the final plan or comments at the public hearing, which was seconded by H. Valenta and passed.

4. Preliminary Review Discussion for Isle La Motte Town Plan

a. Preliminary Staff Review

L. Slomba presented the preliminary review prepared by NRPC staff. Staff found that the plan meets all requirements for approval except 24 VSA § 4302(3), To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters. H. Valenta noted that Isle La Motte currently does not have any schools and that this goal may not be applicable to the town. G. Brunswick suggested that staff prepare a memo for Isle La Motte recommending that either a short section be added on regional education opportunities or that a section be added addressing why this goal is not applicable to the town.

b. Plan Draft

The committee expressed support for the plan and noted that the implementation actions are realistic and attainable. The committee recognized that the plan will meet requirements for regional approval if 24 VSA § 4302(3) is addressed. NRPC staff will relay these comments to the Isle La Motte Planning Commission.

5. Other business

The committee discussed next steps regarding upcoming approvals, and the need for 2-3 additional committee members.

6. Adjourn – 6:47 pm