

Town of Coventry

Notice of Select Board Public Hearing: Proposed 2018 Coventry Town Plan

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4385, the Coventry Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday September 26th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Coventry Town Office, 168 Main Street,** to receive comments on a new draft comprehensive plan for the Town of Coventry as received from the Planning Commission on August 20th, 2018.

The 2018 Town Plan is intended to update and replace the 2013 Coventry Town Plan, and will remain in effect through 2025.

The draft plan affects all land, property and public facilities in town.

Table of Contents:

Purpose; Vision Statement; Goals & Objectives; Community Profile; Housing; Village Character; Development in Coventry; Natural Resources; Land Use; Flood & Fluvial Erosion Plan; Economic Development; Education; Public Facilities; Utilities & Services; Energy; Public Safety & Emergency Response; Transportation; Regional Connections; Conclusion

Map Appendix – Base Map, General Highway Map, Interior Forest Blocks, Connectivity Blocks, Future Land Use, Land Use/Land Cover

MINUTES

Select Board Public Hearing: Proposed 2018 Coventry Town Plan
Wednesday September 26th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mike Marcotte / Chairman; Brad Maxwell; Scott Briere

Town Officials Present:

Amanda Carlson / Town Administrator

Adam Messier / Treasurer

David Barlow / Assistant Clerk

Phil Marquette, Carol Simmons, Skip Gosselin & Moe Jacobs / Planning Commission

Martha Sylvester / Recreation Committee Chairwoman

Guests:

Jeanne Desrochers / Coventry Fire District

Chairman Mike Marcotte opened the hearing at 6:00 p.m. stating that pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4385, the Coventry Select Board is holding this hearing to receive comments on the draft comprehensive plan for the Town of Coventry as received from the Planning Commission on August 20th, 2018.

The 2018 Town Plan is intended to update and replace the 2013 Coventry Town Plan, and will remain in effect through 2025. The draft plan affects all land, property and public facilities in town.

- Mike Marcotte thanked the Planning Commission for their time and dedication on creating the draft Town Plan.
- Mike opened the meeting for Public Comment.

- David Barlow commented on the four introductory pages and his recommendation to revise formatting and grammar. These pages serve as an overview and first impression and David stated he felt some minor changes could make a stronger impact on the reader.
- As the changes noted would not affect any content of the proposed Town Plan, the Board unanimously agreed to allow David Barlow to work with the Planning Commission on the suggested changes prior to printing any final copies.

- Jeanne Desrochers posed questions on the Flood and Fluvial Erosion section of the Plan. She noted that although the section included the minimum State required information, it did not include locations or information specifically addressing flood concerns within the Town of Coventry.
- Moe Jacobs stated that the Planning Commission received assistance on this section and information from the Regional Planning Commission – NVDA but time constraints prohibited a more comprehensive study within the Town to be included in the draft presented.

- Moe stated the intent is to use the proposed Town Plan as the starting point, and the Planning Commission will actively work on updating and adding to the document regularly going forward.

- Jeanne Desrochers noted that the various goal and objectives stated throughout the plan did not indicate which persons within the Town would have authority or responsibility to complete each task.
- Jeanne stated that a Town Plan should not sit on a shelf unread, but rather be continually utilized as a guiding document to achieve the recommended goals. With no assignment of responsibility, there is no measurable accountability of achievements.

- Moe Jacobs stated that the early drafts of the Town Plan reviewed by the Select Board included the specific persons or offices to be assigned responsibility for each task; however, the Board recommended these be removed. Moe stated that this was done at a time when the Board was addressing changes within the Town Offices which he felt probably impacted that opinion.
- Moe stated that after some discussion the Planning Commission agreed to adhere to the Board’s recommendations and remove the specifics; with the goal being that leaving it open will allow officials and the public to express their interest in participating in specific projects. The Planning Commission will continue to update the Town Plan to include assignment of responsibility to the person or Town Office they feel most appropriately qualifies to implement the task.
- No further public comment received.
- Chairman Mike Marcotte asked all persons in attendance if there were any objections to the Select Board approving the 2018 Town of Coventry Town Plan as written; Or if there was any reason they saw that the Board should not approve the draft Town Plan and recommend for the next step of regional approval by the Northeast Vermont Development Association.
- No objections noted. No further comment or statement received from the residents in attendance.
- Brad Maxwell made the motion to adopt the 2018 Town Plan as presented by the Planning Commission, and submit for regional approval.
- Seconded by Scott Briere and unanimously approved by the Board.

Hearing adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Michael Marcotte / Chairman

Bradley Maxwell

Scott Briere

Amanda Carlson / Town Administrator