

NVDA Town Plan Review Committee Hearing Minutes
Regional Approval of Granby Town Plan
Monday, June 20, 2016 6:00 PM
at the Granby Town Offices, 9005 Granby Road, Granby, VT

From Town Plan Review Committee: Sten Lium, Concord; Mike Metcalf, Greensboro; Paul Brouha, Sutton; Justin Barton-Caplin, Barton.

NVDA Staff: Irene Nagle

Representing Granby Town: Granby Planning Commission members Debra Bunnell, Nellie Noble and Selectboard member Reginald Bunnell.

Prior to the opening of the hearing, the committee voted to have Mike Metcalf act as Chair. The hearing opened at 6:00 p.m.

Irene Nagle explained the purpose of regional approval of local plans as per 24 V.S.A. §4350. She noted that the Plan contained all the required elements and was consistent with the State planning goals.

Town officials explained that the flood resiliency element was a new section of the Town Plan, and all other sections were updated.

Town Plan Committee members note that the transportation section in particular was very straightforward. In general the Plan was structured well. It was noted that articulated strategies to support an agricultural economy would be a good addition to the Plan.

The location of the VAST trail in Town was discussed, and Town officials noted that there is a local ordinance related to snowmobile and ATV use.

It was noted by the Town Plan Committee members that the Plan was clear about what was wanted in Granby.

Town officials said that local zoning had been updated fairly recently. There is currently not pressure of development of wind or cell towers or solar facilities, but that could change. In general, very little development has been happening in town.

It was noted that much of the soils in the area close to the center of Town are not suitable for septic systems. Where soils are more suitable, road infrastructure does not support development. Town officials explained the use of state and federal forest lands in Town, and noted that the U.S. Forest Service makes a PILOT payment to the Town. The school district also receives a share of the money from logging.

The importance of retaining access to lands for recreational use was discussed. There are approximately 20,000 acres in current use. It was noted that the U.S. Forest Service and State conducts yearly monitoring of water quality.

It was noted that it would be easier to see the boundaries of public lands if a different color were used on the maps. Noted by NVDA staff.

Sten Lium made a motion to recommend regional approval of the Granby Town Plan to the full NVDA Board. Justin Barton-Caplin seconded and the motion passed. The hearing was adjourned at approximately 6:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Nagle

DRAFT