

NVDA Town Plan Regional Approval

February 21st, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

Hearing Meeting Minutes, Brownington, Vermont

Attendance:

Brownington Planning Commission – Bill Davis (Chair), Larry Thompson, Mark Hastings, Liz Butterfield, Jacob Wolf, Jeannette Poirier, Larry Faust, Jane Greenwood, Marissa Dunn

NVDA - Jesse Noone

NVDA Board Committee - Cynthia Stuart (Chair), Paul Brouha, Tin (Justin) Barton-Caplin

6:32 – Introductions were made

6:34 – The question was posed if the update was major or minor. The Planning Chair responded that it was a major update, emphasizing the theme of “one neighbor at a time” and where that derived from. The town’s complexion has changed over the years and the Commission wanted this update to reflect that while providing greater orientation towards the future.

Through listing major themes and priority actions, the plan intends to have greater positive community participation. It was also mentioned that the adoption of the plan has already produced results for the community regarding the MERP and MTAP programs.

Jane echoed these comments and that through NVDA, the Brownington Community Trust can build momentum when asked how the town intends continued coordination with the RPC.

Mark established the merits of seeking village center designation for the Evansville area as thinking of it as a small-scale economic hub that already has a state highway going through (the only such in town limits), and is a poised maneuver to be thinking future-oriented.

6:45 – Questions to the Board:

Tin – Enjoyed reading the plan, both through its visuals and themes, which he mentioned was rare for him to say. Tin later points out the nuanced language in the plan regarding the Village Center designation for Evansville regarding the community backing of its pursuits.

6:49 – Paul’s suggestions for implementation included being clearer on the Who’s and the Where’s action items get implemented, which was a sticking point for the Commission’s and town’s capacity issues. He also echoed the continued coordination with NVDA and that NVDA has (now two) staff members dedicated to energy that could assist with the Energy Commission.

Paul also echoed the plan’s readability and appreciated the high-priority sections of the plan.

Paul made the following comments regarding amendments. Changes are as follows:

Page 38 – remove language that says the Brownington Pond flows into the Memphremagog.

Page 35 – add amendment regarding the new S.100 bill that multi-unit housing is by right where it is served by municipal water and wastewater.

Page 38 – removed image reference that no longer exists. Substituted for a hyperlink.

Page 40 – add “to manage” land development

Page 43 – remove inaccuracies about Brownington Pond flow

6:55 - Cynthia – Really got a sense and flavor of the community through the plan and felt that this was very unique for the town. Also emphasized further establishing who is responsible for what in implementation timeframes as well as pursuing a housing stock program at the state level.

There was an emphasis on the newer Amish population and their effects on housing, business, Act 250, and the overall effects of the local economy and branding.

7:00 Jesse confirms staff review of the plan

7:01 Meeting adjourned