PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

October 14, 2015

ATT: Brad Lackey, Phil Edelstein, Peter Barus; John Bennett of WRC and Gig Zboray, Zoning Administrator.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM.

John talked about ways to protect against flooding (like new dams, accessing flood plains). North River may get a river study by WRC if grant application is approved.

John talked about Forest Stewardship and we all looked at the various maps that John provided. The WRC has a grant which ends 12/31/15. John will generate “stuff” for use in our Town Plan regarding Forest Stewardship. Some things that Planning Commissioners can think about for next meeting include:

* What are the town’s important forest resources?
* What trends and patterns have you noticed in the past decade related to the forests of Whitingham?
* What threats are, or will be, affecting the forests of Whitingham?
* What efforts has the Town taken so far to promote forest stewardship?
* What would the Town like to do? What do they need help in doing?
* If you had a Conservation Commission, what would you direct them to do?
* What are the strengths and weaknesses of the town plan?
* Are there key properties or key locations in town that you are most concerned about?
* What forest-based industries exist in town? (sawmills, sugaring, logging, trucking)

Town Plan Updates:

Next up in “Natural Resources”.

John provided the link for Jacksonville Village Enhancement “strenghteningsouthernvermont.wordpress.com” We need to write up something about Jacksonville Village and add it after “Whitingham Village Enhancement” on page 31.

Gig asked Stanley to review entire Transportation section, still waiting to get it back from him.

Gig still needs to write up something about the VT Route 100 Scenic Byway.

Table 8 on page 27 – John to find out history of this and get more current information. Replace “National” bridge inventory with “State”.

Table 8 (#2) on page 28 – needs to be correctly numbered. John will check with Sarah (again).

Discussion of what actually needs a permit and what doesn’t (ponds, agriculture, forestry, etc. are listed as approved uses but are not on the fee schedule). A state permit is required for 500,000 cu ft of water impounded by a dam.

Discussion of AirBnB rentals, no consensus if permit required or not.

Gig or Linda to download the Survey Monkey data before next meeting.

**8:55pm Meeting Adjourned**

Next meeting **November** **4th**, 2015 at 7pm.